

Studies in Health Care Policy

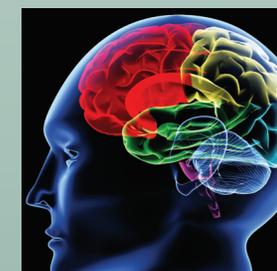
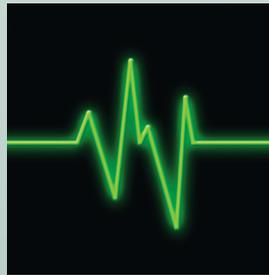
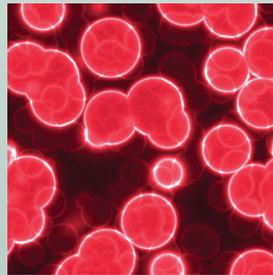


December 2010

Waiting Your Turn Wait Times for Health Care in Canada 2010 Report

20th Edition

by Bacchus Barua, Mark Rovere, and Brett J. Skinner



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Health Care Policy

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We are also pleased to acknowledge the important contributions of Steven Globerman, Maureen Hazel, Joanna Miyake, Cynthia Ramsay, Greg Wilson, and Martin Zelder in completing earlier versions of the survey and in building the base of knowledge that is incorporated into this publication.

Highlights

- ❖ Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 18.2 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and elective treatment in 2010
- ❖ Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait (14.0 weeks) followed by Manitoba (17.5 weeks), and British Columbia and Quebec (18.8 weeks)
- ❖ Patients wait longest to undergo orthopaedic surgery (35.6 weeks) and wait least for medical oncology treatment (4.9 weeks)
- ❖ Canadians wait nearly 3 weeks longer than what physicians believe is “reasonable” for elective treatment after an appointment with a specialist
- ❖ Throughout the provinces, in 2010 people are waiting for an estimated 825,827 procedures. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.45 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment
- ❖ Only 9 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they requested a delay or postponement

Findings

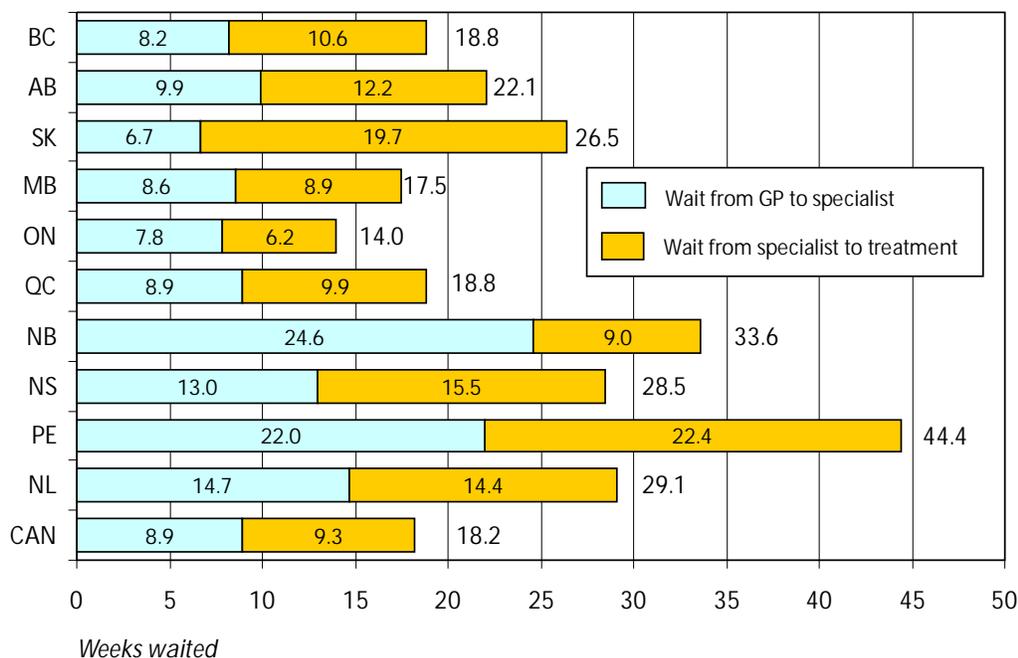
Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twentieth annual waiting list survey finds that province-wide wait times¹ for surgical and other therapeutic treatments have increased in 2010. The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has risen from 16.1 weeks in 2009 to 18.2 weeks in 2010. Compared to 1993, the total waiting time in 2010 is 96 percent longer.

This nationwide deterioration in access reflects waiting-time increases in all 10 provinces.

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2010 (14.0 weeks), followed by Manitoba (17.5 weeks), and British Columbia and Quebec (18.8 weeks). Prince Edward

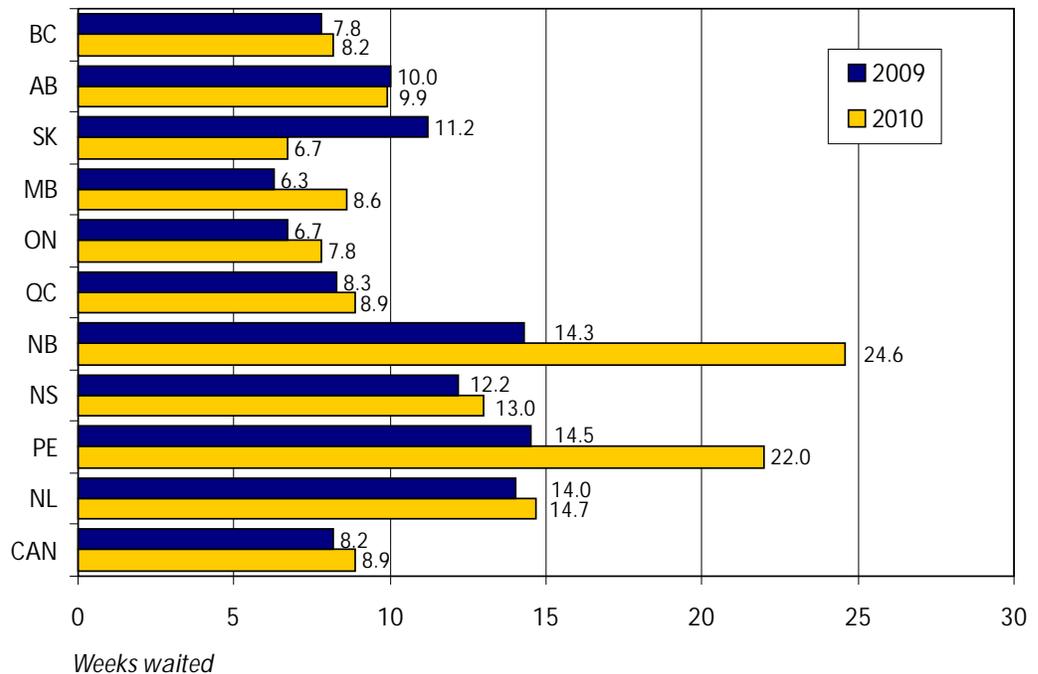
*Chart 1: Median Wait by Province in 2010
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment*



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

1 For a further explanation of how *Waiting Your Turn* measures wait times, see the "Method" section.

Chart 2: Waiting By Province in 2009 and 2010
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Appointment with Specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.

Island has the longest total wait at 44.4 weeks,² followed by New Brunswick (33.6 weeks),³ and Newfoundland & Labrador (29.1 weeks) (see table 2 and chart 1).

Wait time by segment

Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

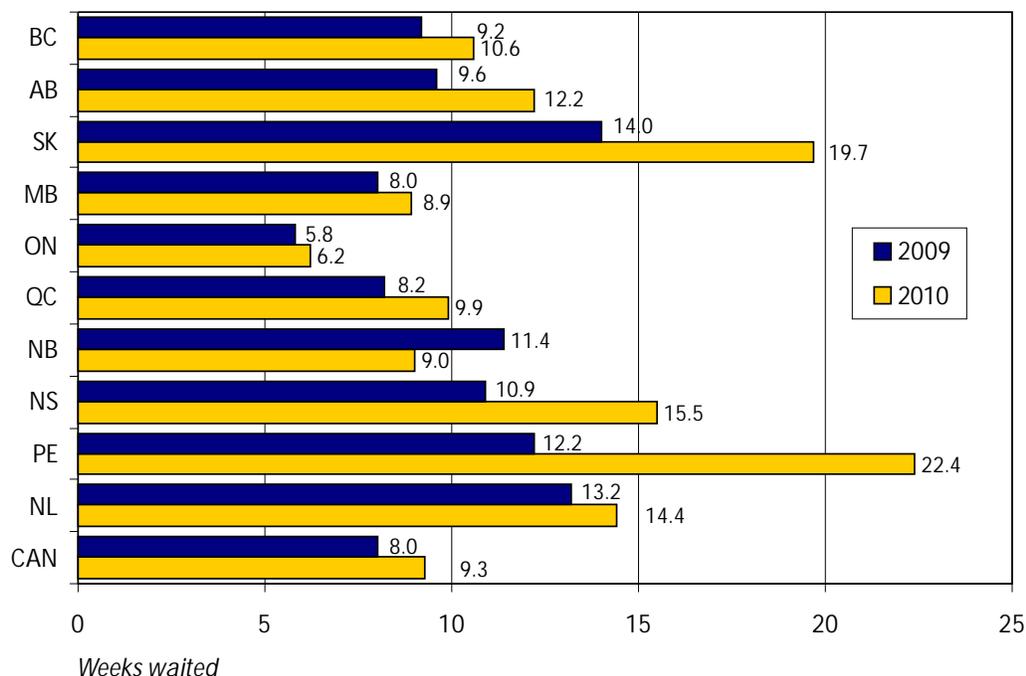
1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.

The rise in waiting time between 2009 and 2010 results from an increase in both segments.

² See "Data Limitations."

³ See "Data Limitations."

Chart 3: *Waiting by Province in 2009 and 2010*
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Province



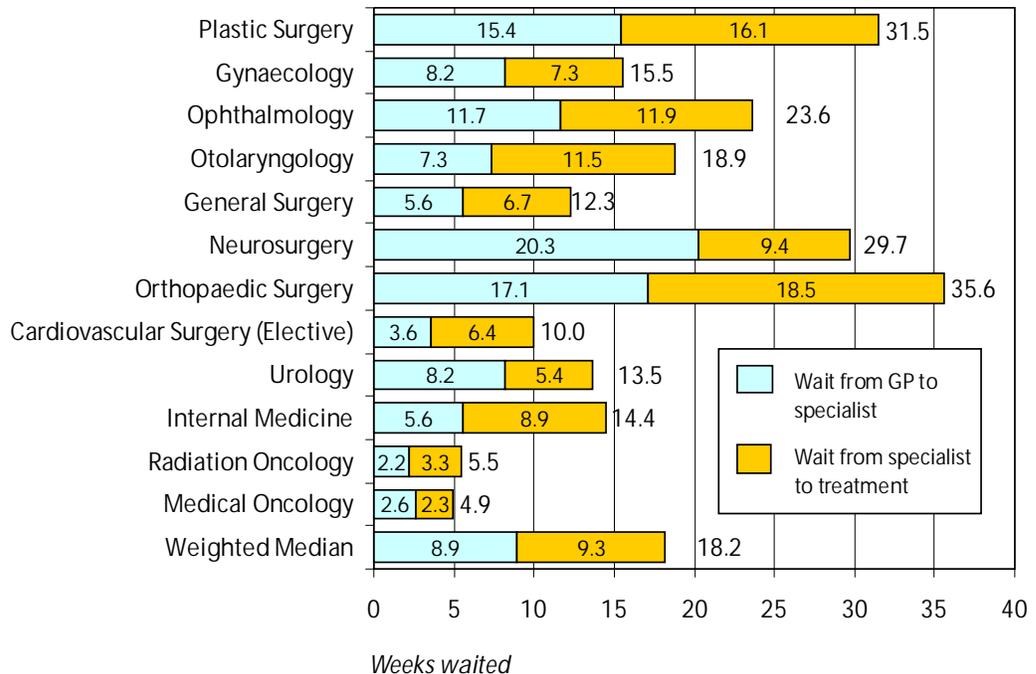
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.

The waiting time in the first segment, from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist, has risen from 8.2 weeks in 2009 to 8.9 weeks in 2010, and is 141 percent longer than in 1993 when it was 3.7 weeks (see graphs 1 and 2). The waiting time to see a specialist has increased in 8 provinces since 2009, but has fallen in Alberta and Saskatchewan (see chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Saskatchewan (6.7 weeks), Ontario (7.8 weeks), and British Columbia (8.2 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations occur in New Brunswick (24.6 weeks),⁴ Prince Edward Island (22.0 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (14.7 weeks) (see table 3).

The waiting time in the second segment, from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment, has risen from 8.0 weeks in 2009 to 9.3 weeks in 2010, reminiscent of the historical highs experienced in the earlier part of this decade. This portion of waiting is 66 percent longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (see graphs 3 and 4). In fact, waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in all provinces except New Brunswick (which has experienced a

4 See "Data Limitations."

Chart 4: Median Wait by Specialty in 2010
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

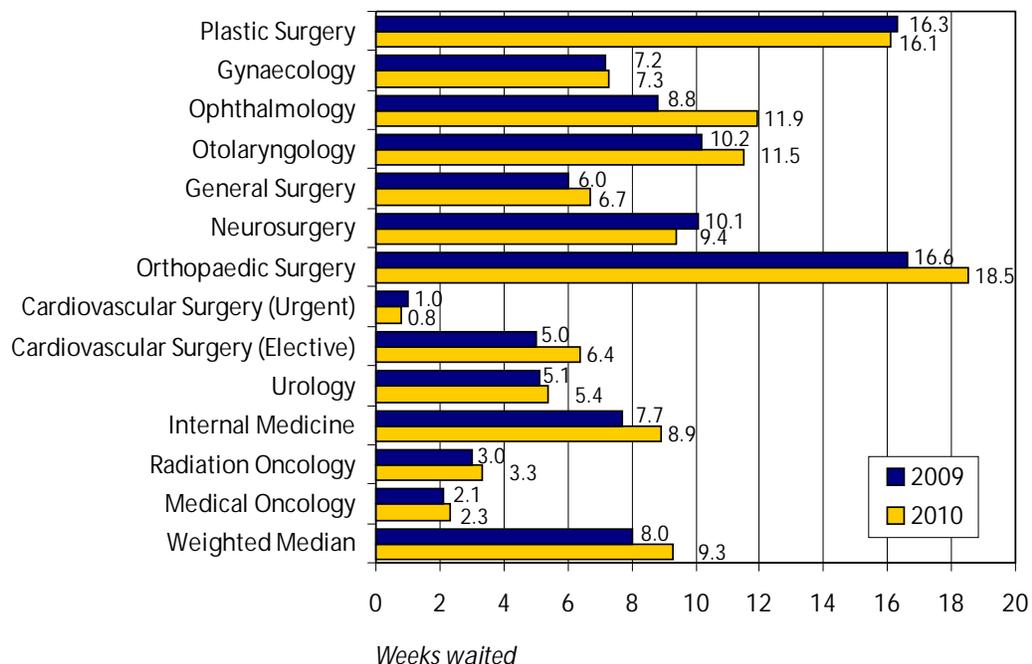
21% decrease) since 2009 (see table 6 and chart 3). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (6.2 weeks), Manitoba (8.9 weeks), and New Brunswick (9.0 weeks), while the longest such waits exist in Prince Edward Island (22.4 weeks),⁵ Saskatchewan (19.7 weeks), and Nova Scotia (15.5 weeks) (see table 4).

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for medical oncology (4.9 weeks), radiation oncology (5.5 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (10.0 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (35.6 weeks), plastic surgery (31.5 weeks), and neurosurgery (29.7 weeks) (see table 2 and chart 4). There have been large increases between 2009 and 2010 in the waits for ophthalmology (+ 4.5 weeks), internal medicine (+ 2.2 weeks), cardiovascular surgery (+ 1.9 weeks), general surgery (+ 1.9 weeks), and orthopaedic surgery (+ 1.9 weeks). These increases are offset by an improvement for patients receiving treatment

5 See "Data Limitations."

Chart 5: *Waiting by Province in 2009 and 2010*
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Specialty



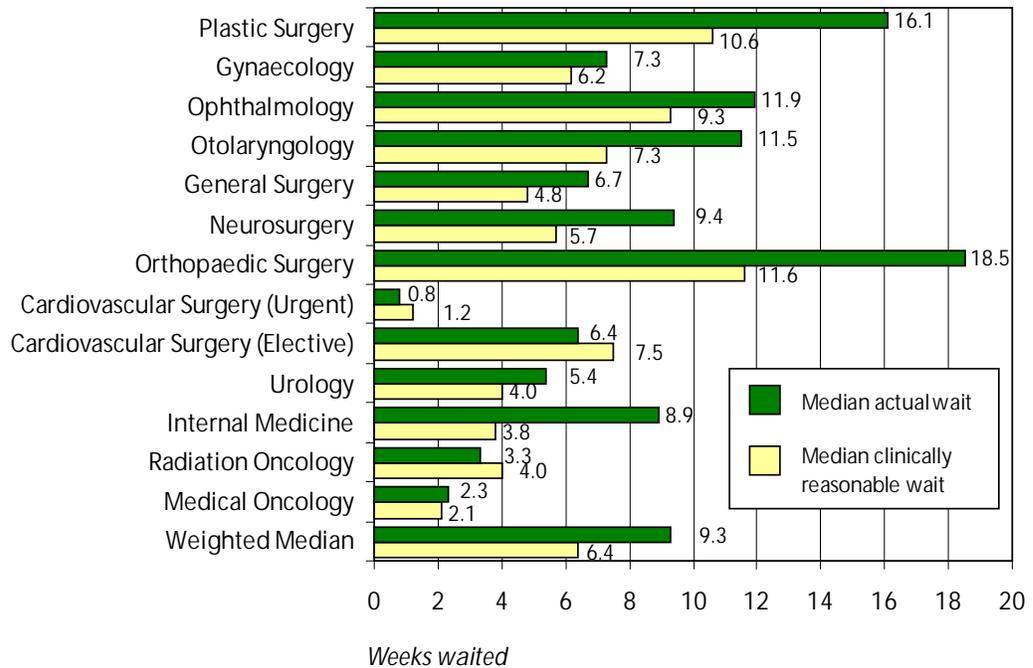
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.

in neurosurgery (-3.2 weeks), gynaecology (- 0.7 weeks), and medical oncology (- 0.2 weeks).

Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. With regard to the first segment, the shortest waits are in radiation oncology (2.2 weeks), medical oncology (2.6 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (3.6 weeks); while the longest waits are for neurosurgery (20.3 weeks), orthopaedic surgery (17.1 weeks), and plastic surgery (15.4 weeks) (see table 3).

For the second segment, patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (0.8 weeks), medical oncology (2.3 weeks), and radiation oncology (3.3 weeks); they wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (18.5 weeks), plastic surgery (16.1 weeks), and ophthalmology (11.9 weeks) (see table 4 and chart 5).

Chart 6: Median Actual Wait Versus Median Clinically Reasonable Wait by Specialty for Canada: Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment in 2010



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010.

Comparison between clinically "reasonable" and actual waiting times

Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically "reasonable" waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 113 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 73 percent of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Ontario and New Brunswick have come closest to meeting the standard of "reasonable" wait times. Their actual second segment waits only exceed the corresponding "reasonable" values by 10 and 17 percent, respectively, which are smaller gaps than in the other provinces (see table 10). These two provinces achieve their performance by very different means: the "reasonable" wait time in New Brunswick is among the longest in Canada at 7.7 weeks (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and Saskatchewan reported longer "reasonable" wait times), while the "reasonable" wait time in Ontario is among Canada's shortest at 5.6 weeks (only Newfoundland & Labrador report a shorter "reasonable" wait time of 5.3 weeks). Physicians in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Alberta also hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is "reasonable." The greatest differ-

Chart 7: Waiting for Technology
Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2010, 2009, and 2008

Province	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008
British Columbia	5.0	5.0	4.5	16.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	3.6
Alberta	4.0	4.0	4.0	11.5	8.0	8.0	3.0	3.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	5.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Manitoba	4.0	5.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	5.5	4.0	5.0	6.0
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	5.0	6.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	7.5
New Brunswick	4.0	4.3	4.3	10.0	8.0	10.0	6.0	6.0	7.0
Nova Scotia	5.5	5.0	5.0	11.5	9.5	12.0	6.5	7.0	6.0
P.E.I.	5.0	8.0	19.0	8.0	14.0	25.0	4.5	15.0	35.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	6.0	6.5	6.0	11.0	15.5	14.0	6.0	8.0	7.0
Canada	4.2	4.6	4.9	9.8	8.9	9.7	4.5	4.7	4.4

Note: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

ence between these two values for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is nearly 7 weeks longer than what is considered to be reasonable by specialists (see chart 6).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan in 2010 has fallen to 4.2 weeks from 4.6 weeks in 2009. Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick have the shortest wait for a CT scan (4.0 weeks), while the longest wait occurs in Newfoundland & Labrador (6.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has increased to 9.8 weeks in 2010 from 8.9 weeks in 2009. Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait for an MRI (7.0 weeks), while British Columbians wait longest (16 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has fallen to 4.5 weeks from 4.7 weeks in 2009. Ontario displays the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while Quebec exhibits the longest ultrasound waiting time, 8.0 weeks (see chart 7).

Numbers of procedures for which people are waiting

This study estimates that across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2010 is 825,827 (see table 12). Table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population adjusted basis), an increase of 19 percent from the estimated 694,161 procedures in 2009. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting has increased in every province except New Brunswick. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.45 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2010, which varies from a low of 1.63 percent in Ontario to a high of 4.97 percent in Saskatchewan.⁶

6 These numbers should be interpreted with caution, especially for Saskatchewan. As a result of discussions with provincial authorities in 2002, counts of “the number of patients waiting for surgery” have been replaced with the “number of procedures for which patients are waiting.” There do not, however, appear to be significant systematic differences between the numbers of “procedures for which people are waiting” estimated in this edition of *Waiting Your Turn* and counts of “patients waiting” provided to us by provincial ministries.

Method

This study replicates methods used in previous editions. The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 11 and May 7, 2010. Survey questionnaires⁷ were sent to practitioners of 12 different medical specialties: plastic surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, cardiovascular surgery, urology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. This year, the overall response rate was 16 percent.

The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in tables 2 through 15.

This study is designed to estimate the wait for elective treatment.⁸ Waiting time is calculated as the median of physician responses. The median is calculated by ranking specialists' responses in either ascending or descending order, and determining the middle value.⁹

To obtain the provincial medians (displayed in the last row of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8), the 12 specialty medians are each weighted by a ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists of all types in the province. To obtain the national medians (displayed in the last column of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8) we use a similar ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists in that specialty across all provinces.

The provincial weighted medians reported in the last line of tables 5a through 5l are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty, neurolysis, etc., for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all surgeries within that specialty constituted by that procedure. The sum of these multiplied terms forms the weighted median for that province and specialty (an analogous method is used for tables 9a through 9l).

To estimate the number of procedures for which people are waiting, the total annual number of procedures is divided by 52 (weeks per year) and then multiplied by the Fraser Institute's estimate of the actual provincial average number of weeks waited. This means that a waiting period of one month implies that, on average, patients are waiting one-twelfth of a year for surgery. Therefore, the next person added to the list

7 The Cornerstone Group of Companies provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Specialists were offered a chance to win a \$2,000 prize (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond.

8 Emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured for cardiovascular surgery.

9 For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

would find one-twelfth of a year's patients ahead of him or her in the queue. The main assumption underlying this estimate is that the number of surgeries performed will neither increase nor decrease within the year in response to waiting lists.

The number of non-emergency procedures for which people are waiting that were not included in the survey is also calculated, and is listed in table 12 as the "residual" number of procedures for which people are waiting. To estimate this residual number, the number of non-emergency operations not contained in the survey that are done in each province annually must be used. This residual number of operations (compiled from the CIHI data) is then divided by 52 (weeks) and multiplied by each province's weighted median waiting time for all specialties.

This study's weighting of medians and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting are based on data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for 2008-2009. Quebec does not provide CIHI with discharge data. Alberta does not provide CIHI with discharge data for same-day surgeries. As a result, the authors have made a pro-rated estimate of procedures in Alberta and Quebec using the 1999-2000 number of hospitalizations from data published by CIHI.

There are a number of minor problems in matching CIHI's categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute survey. In a few instances, an operation such as rhinoplasty is listed under more than one specialty in *Waiting Your Turn*. In these cases, we divide the number of patients annually undergoing this type of operation among specialties according to the proportion of specialists in each of the overlapping specialties; e.g., if plastic surgeons constitute 75 percent of the group of specialists performing rhinoplasties, then the number of rhinoplasties counted under plastic surgery is the total multiplied by 0.75. A second problem is that, in some cases, an operation listed in the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire has no direct match in the CIHI tabulation. An example is ophthalmologic surgery for glaucoma, which is not categorized separately in the CIHI discharge abstract data. In these cases, we make no estimate of the number of patients waiting for these operations.

Verification of data

Verification of current data with governments

On September 30, 2010, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. As of November 1, 2010, we have received replies from provincial health ministries in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, and Newfoundland & Labrador. A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Many provinces measure the waiting time as the time between the date on which a treatment is scheduled (or booked) and the date of the treatment. The Fraser Institute intends to assist those seeking treatment, and those evaluating waiting times, by providing comprehensive data on the entire wait a person seeking treatment can expect. Accordingly, the Institute measures the time between the decision of the specialist that treatment is required and treatment being received as well as the time between general practitioner referral and consultation with a specialist.

Alberta

Alberta Health and Wellness provided the Fraser Institute with data for the median wait time “from Specialist’s Decision to Treat to Date of Treatment” for the period April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010. This calculation is based on “completed events only, excluding people who voluntarily delay their procedure, scheduled follow-ups, and emergency care” (Alberta Health and Wellness, personal communication, Nov 1, 2010). By comparison, the Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist’s decision to treat the patient.

There is a substantial difference between the measurement of prospective waiting times (the expected waiting time for the next patient) and retrospective waiting times (the amount of time the patient actually waited for surgery). Notably, the latter measure includes any adjustments in waiting times that were the result of a deterioration in the patient’s condition (other than those that resulted in emergency care) or from adjustments that resulted from other uncontrollable factors (emergency cases using up operating room time, an earlier operating slot becoming unavailable, etc.).

Despite these differences in methodology, it appears that the prospective wait times from the Fraser Institute’s waiting list survey are in many cases broadly similar to the retrospective waiting times available from the Alberta Ministry of Health and Wellness (see chart 8). However, the Institute’s measurements are notably longer than

Chart 8: Comparison of Waiting Times in Alberta, Specialist to Treatment, 2010
(in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	AB Health Median Wait Time ¹	Fraser Institute Median Wait ²
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent) ³	0.4	} 1.1 (Urgent)
Cardiovascular Surgery (Semi-urgent)	4.6	
General Surgery	5.6	8.8
Gynaecological Surgery	7.4	9.9
Neurosurgery	5.0	6.0
Ophthalmology	9.0	22.9
Orthopaedic Surgery	11.0	22.6
Otolaryngology	8.3	13.5
Plastic Surgery	6.7	11.5
Urological Surgery	5.4	3.1

¹Median wait time (in weeks) from specialist's decision to treat to date of treatment, April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010.

²Prospective median wait (in weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, National Hospital Waiting List Survey, 2010.

³Alberta Ministry of Health and Wellness defines cardiovascular urgency levels as Urgent < 2 weeks, Semi-Urgent <6 weeks, and Scheduled >6 weeks.

Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness; and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

Chart 9: Number of Patients Waiting for Care in Alberta, 2010

Specialty/Procedure	Patients Waiting ¹	Fraser Institute Estimate
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	66	} 106 (Urgent)
Cardiovascular Surgery (Semi Urgent)	389	
General Surgery	8,638	9,608
Gynaecological Surgery	7,421	3,736
Neurosurgery	592	512
Ophthalmology	16,891	14,950
Orthopaedic Surgery	14,299	10,745
Otolaryngology	5,154	2,849
Plastic Surgery	3,981	1,093
Urological Surgery	2,672	2,070

¹Count as of March 31, 2010.

Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness; and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

those calculated by Alberta Health and Wellness in the areas of ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology, and plastic surgery.

A comparison with the count of the number of patients waiting (also provided by the Alberta Ministry of Health and Wellness), which includes “people who voluntarily delay their procedure and scheduled follow-ups,” shows that in most cases, if anything, the Fraser Institute’s calculations of procedures for which patients are waiting underestimates the actual experience in Alberta (see chart 9).

British Columbia

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Health Services defines waiting time in such a way that its estimates are shorter than those in this survey. Specifically, the ministry defines a wait as the interval between “the time the procedure is booked in the hospital until [the time] it is completed or [the] medical issue [is] resolved.” Not only does this definition omit waiting time between GP and specialist (which the Institute’s survey includes in the total), but it also understates the patient’s actual waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment because it will not include any delays between the decision to treat the patient and the formal booking/recording for that patient. In addition, because some hospitals only book a few months ahead, this method of measuring waiting lists undoubtedly omits a substantial fraction of patients with waits beyond the booking period (see Ramsay, 1998).

One additional difference between the measures published on the Ministry of Health Services’ web site and those produced by the Fraser Institute is that the ministry’s measurement includes all “booked” procedures, “even if the surgery occurs within a day of the booking.” This suggests that many non-elective surgeries may be included in the Ministry of Health Services’ measurements. By contrast, the Fraser Institute’s measurements, with the exception of cardiovascular surgery wait times, include wait times for elective procedures only.

These differences in methodology suggest that the wait times published on the BC Ministry of Health Services’ web site should be substantially shorter than those measured by the Fraser Institute. However, in years past, the ministry’s wait times have also been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment.

Charts 10 and 11 show that the wait times recently presented on the ministry’s website continue to be critically flawed.

For example, the ministry reports a waiting time of 4.0 weeks for general surgery for the three months ending April 30. The web site also shows 11,268 patients waiting for surgery at that time (see charts 10 and 11). In order for the waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list to be 4.0 weeks, the province would have to provide

2,817 procedures per week, approximately four times the number of surgeries delivered weekly during the 90 days preceding April 30 (see chart 10).

Either there are fewer people waiting, significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government's number of a 4.0-week wait for general surgery is incorrect. Specialty by specialty, month in and month out, the median wait figures reported by the ministry remain consistently, and surprisingly, lower than expected given the number of patients waiting and the number of procedures that can reasonably be expected to be performed per week. Chart 10 provides information on the current number of patients waiting for surgery, the Fraser Institute's estimates of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, and the number of procedures completed in the 90 days preceding April 30, 2010. Chart 11 shows the ministry's published

Chart 10: Number of Patients Waiting for Care in British Columbia in 2010

Specialty/ Procedure	Patients Waiting ¹	Fraser Institute Estimate	Patients Served in Previous 90 days (proximate period) ²	Procedures per week
Plastic Surgery	4,148	5,591	2,313	178
Gynaecology	7,058	4,069	6,402	492
Ophthalmology	14,314	16,602	13,360	1,028
Cataract Surgery	12,353	14,303	11,602	892
Cornea Transplant	418	207	172	13
Otolaryngology	6,713	5,490	3,185	245
General Surgery	11,268	10,410	9,026	694
Cholecystectomy	1,672	1,397	1,309	101
Neurosurgery	1,970	1,319	1,035	80
Endarterectomy Head/Neck	106	48	100	8
Orthopaedic Surgery	15,849	14,517	8,388	645
Hip Replacement	1,628	} 9,115	1,053	81
Knee Replacement	3,264		1,478	114
Cardiac Surgery	159	} 211	402	31
Vascular Surgery	2,219		1,051	81
Urology	6,087	4,420	5,460	420
Radiation Oncology	375	73	2,878 ³	221

¹Count as at April 30, 2010.

²Patients served in 3 months prior to April 30, 2010.

³Treatments (courses) for the 3 months prior to March 31, 2010.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health Services Wait List web site; and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

Chart 11: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Specialist to Treatment in 2010 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	BC Health Median Wait ¹	Implied 2010 Expected Wait ²	Fraser Institute Median Wait ³
Plastic Surgery	5.0	23.3	33.6
Gynaecology	4.9	14.3	9.1
Ophthalmology	6.9	13.9	14.0
Cataract Surgery	7.4	13.8	16.0
Cornea Transplant	18.7	31.6	26.0
Otolaryngology	7.3	27.4	18.8
General Surgery	4.0	16.2	7.2
Cholecystectomy	5.0	16.6	9.0
Neurosurgery	4.7	24.7	11.5
Endarterectomy Head/Neck	3.4	13.8	10.0*
Orthopaedic Surgery	8.1	24.6	20.4
Hip Replacement Surgery	11.4	20.1	24.0
Knee Replacement Surgery	13.6	28.7	24.0
Cardiac Surgery	3.7	5.1	} 1.2 (Urgent) 7.3 (Elective)
Vascular Surgery	3.7	27.4	
Urology	3.9	14.5	4.9
Radiation Oncology	1.6	1.7	4.3

¹Median wait for 3 months ending April 30, 2010.

²Number of weeks to exhaust the list of patients waiting.

³Prospective median wait, national hospital waiting list survey, 2010.

*The Fraser Institute measures wait times for carotid endarterectomy in two surgical areas: neurosurgery and cardiovascular surgery. The wait time corresponding to neurosurgery in BC is reported here. Wait times in cardiovascular surgery were: 1.0 weeks for urgent treatment and 8.0 weeks for elective treatment.

Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health Services Wait List web site and the Fraser Institute's hospital waiting list survey.

waiting times, the “expected” waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list using the number of patients waiting, the number of procedures actually provided weekly, and the Fraser Institute’s median waiting time measurements.

For the three months ending April 30, 2010, the government’s reported median wait averaged 40 percent of the “expected” wait, ranging from 13 percent (for vascular surgery) to 94 percent (for radiation oncology). The Institute median wait data, meanwhile, averages 90 percent of the “expected” wait.

It should be noted that the BC Ministry of Health Services has found its counts of patients waiting for treatment to be highly problematic. For example, some patients had already been treated and not removed from waiting lists (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2010c). This suggests that the “expected” wait may be overstating the wait times in British Columbia. However, the number of patients waiting for treatment would have to drop to between one half and one-third of the current reported level, on average, in order for the ministry’s measurements of waiting times to be consistent with the number of patients waiting and procedures being performed. In other words, the true patient experience in British Columbia likely lies somewhere between the “expected” wait estimated above and the wait time reported by the ministry, which is precisely where the wait times and estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting produced by the Fraser Institute generally lie.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list web site provides measures of waiting times from the provincial registry for surgeries in most areas of Saskatchewan. The measures presented by Saskatchewan are for non-emergent surgeries and measure the wait from “the date that the Regional Health Authority receives the booking form from the surgeon until the date that the surgery is performed.” As noted above, this methodology differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute.

One difference between the wait times presented here and those available on the SSCN website is that between measuring at the time a new patient is seen by the specialist, and when the booking for the procedure is actually made. A number of systemic delays can occur between the time the patient is seen by a specialist and the time a booking is made. The first is that there is often a delay to order, complete, and analyze test results (in particular, imaging scans). Another delay relates to the fact that there may be a wait list to make the actual booking. A telephone survey of Saskatchewan physicians conducted by the authors of *Waiting Your Turn* in 2002 revealed that at least some of the physicians did not place their elective patients on the government waiting list until the patients became urgent cases. Thus, waiting times that measure from booking time to actual procedure will not capture the waiting times for testing and any delays in booking that occur.

The crucial difference between the two measures, however, is the inclusion of urgent surgeries. The SSCN website measures waiting times for all non-emergent surgeries (i.e., urgent and elective surgery waits are measured), while *Waiting Your Turn* measures waiting times for only elective surgeries (with the exception of cardiovascular surgery where emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured). This means that urgent wait times (which are significantly shorter than elective wait times) are

included in the wait time measures available on the SSCN website, but not in those measured by the Fraser Institute.

The resulting conclusion is that the numbers available on the SSCN website are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn*.

It is, however, possible to construct a measure from SSCN data that is more comparable with that measured by the Fraser Institute. In addition to the non-emergent median wait time measures published on its web site, SSCN also provides data on the proportion of patients (non-emergent) that were treated in several time frames: 0-3 weeks, 4-6 weeks, 7 weeks to 3 months, 4-12 months, 13-18 months, and more than 18 months. By eliminating the proportion of patients treated in the shortest time frame

Chart 12: Comparison between Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list measures and Waiting Your Turn 2010 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	SSCN Median Wait ¹	SSCN Elective Wait ²	Fraser Institute Median
Plastic Surgery	12.0	33.5	38.8
Gynaecology	6.0	24.9	11.2
Ophthalmology	7.0	22.8	10.5
Otolaryngology	9.0	32.8	49.6
General Surgery	3.7	18.9	11.2
Neurosurgery	7.6	32.2	12.2
Orthopaedic Surgery	18.1	31.7	51.7
Cardiovascular Surgery	1.0	12.2	3.9 (Urgent)
Cardiovascular Surgery	1.0	12.2	18.7 (Elective)
Urology	5.1	19.2	—
All Procedures/Specialties	6.9	26.4	19.7

¹SSCN non-emergent median wait times are retrospectively measured for procedures performed between October 2009 and March 2010.

²Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network data are available as a proportion of patients who received their surgery within certain time frames. SSCN measures non-emergent surgeries, which includes both urgent and elective treatments. In an attempt to eliminate the measure of urgent procedures, the shortest time frame is removed to allow better comparability with the waiting times presented in *Waiting Your Turn*. More specifically, the SSCN elective wait presented here is a weighted average measure based on the mid-point of each time frame other than the shortest time frame. For example: 39% of patients in Saskatchewan waited less than 3 weeks for Orthopaedic Surgery, 7% waited 4 to 6 weeks, 12% waited 7 weeks to 3 months, 33% waited 4 to 12 months, 7% waited 13 to 18 months, and 2% waited more than 18 months. Removing the percentage of patients treated in the 0-3 week time frame, and taking the midpoints of the remaining time frames to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively gives an average elective waiting time of 31.7 weeks.

Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list web site; the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey; and calculations by authors.

Chart 13: Comparison between the number of patients waiting according to Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list and the estimate of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting from Waiting Your Turn, 2010

Specialty	SSCN Count**	FI Estimate
Plastic Surgery	1,483	1,554
Gynaecology	3,335	1,353
Ophthalmology	4,482	3,166
Otolaryngology	3,250	4,981
General Surgery	2,749	4,534
Neurosurgery	650	406
Orthopaedic Surgery	7,113	8,888
Cardiovascular Surgery	57	70
Urology	1,314	—
Overall Count	27,339	51,158

**SSCN Patients waiting count at March 31, 2010.

Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list website; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey.

(0-3 weeks), and by taking the mid-points of the remaining times to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively, it is possible to construct a weighted average “elective” wait time measure for Saskatchewan that should be more comparable with the elective wait times measured by the Fraser Institute. The calculated SSCN elective wait time measure is shown in chart 12. This comparison suggests that the Fraser Institute's measures neither necessarily overstate nor necessarily understate the actual patient experience in Saskatchewan. Notably, only in the cases of plastic surgery, otolaryngology, orthopaedic surgery, and elective cardiovascular surgery are the Institute's estimates longer than the SSCN elective wait time measure.

With respect to the estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting, only in about half of the specialties compared (and the overall count), are the Fraser Institute's estimates larger than the SSCN's counts of patients waiting for care (see chart 13). Note, however, that much of this difference may arise from differences in what is being measured: the SSCN's counts include only patients waiting for procedures done in operating rooms and do not count patients who will be treated in other locations such as procedure rooms, while the Fraser Institute's estimates include counts for all patients treated in hospitals.

Chart 14: Comparison between New Brunswick Department of Health (NBDH) wait list measures and *Waiting Your Turn*, 2010 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	NBDH Wait ¹	NBDH Elective Wait ²	Fraser Institute Median
Plastic Surgery	11.1	17.1	16.9
Mammoplasty/Breast Reduction	18.4	23.4	14.0
Gynaecology	11.8	15.9	5.4
Hysterectomy	13.2	16.9	5.5
Ophthalmology	11.8	15.4	8.1
Cataract Surgery	11.8	15.4	8.0
Otolaryngology	11.7	16.5	7.6
Myringotomy	7.2	12.9	5.5
Tonsillectomy	10.6	13.9	8.5
General Surgery	9.7	15.9	6.2
Hernia repair	12.4	17.1	7.0
Cholecystectomy	10.4	15.8	8.0
Mastectomy/Breast Excision	3.0	9.0	4.0
Neurosurgery	8.2	17.8	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	18.2	22.3	16.4
Hip Replacement	21.9	24.0	20.0
Knee Replacement	28.3	29.7	20.0
Cardiac Surgery	5.5	11.4	11.0 (elective)
Bypass Surgery	4.8	10.9	11.0 (elective)
Thoracic Surgery	5.3	11.8	11.0 (elective)
Vascular Surgery	6.4	11.0	11.0 (elective)
Urology	7.0	12.0	8.7
Prostatectomy	4.9	7.8	7.0 (non-radical)/5.0 (radical)
All Procedures/Specialties	11.1	16.4	9.0

¹NBDH wait times are retrospectively measured for procedures performed between January 1 and March 31, 2010.

²NBDH elective wait is measured by eliminating the 0-3 weeks time frame in the weighted average measure. NBDH measures non-emergent surgeries, which includes both urgent and elective surgeries. In an attempt to eliminate the measure of urgent procedures, the shortest time frame is removed to allow better comparability with the waiting times presented in *Waiting Your Turn*.

Note: New Brunswick Department of Health data are available as a proportion of patients who received their surgery within certain time frames. The weighted average measure here is based on a weighted measure of the mid-point of each time frame. For example, 19.5% of patients in New Brunswick waited less than 3 weeks for Orthopaedic Surgery, 15.4% waited 3 to 6 weeks, 24.5% waited 6 weeks to 3 months, 35.9% waited 3 to 12 months, 3.7% waited 12 to 18 months, and 1.0% waited more than 18 months. Removing the percentage of patients treated in the 0-3 week time frame and taking the midpoints of the remaining time frames to be 4.5, 9.5, 32.5, 65, and 82 weeks respectively, gives an average elective waiting time of 22.3 weeks.

Sources: New Brunswick Department of Health web site; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey; and calculations by authors.

New Brunswick

The New Brunswick Department of Health (NBDH) wait list web site provides measures of surgical waiting times from the provincial registry for all facilities that perform surgeries in New Brunswick. The measures that New Brunswick presents are for non-emergent surgeries and measure the number and proportion of patients waiting in certain time intervals from when a booking was made to when the procedure was performed. This methodology differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute, with the key differences again being the inclusion of urgent surgeries in the New Brunswick web site data and that the wait time clock starts only when the booking request is received at the hospital.

Similar to Saskatchewan's case, it is possible to construct a measure from NBDH data that is more comparable with the Fraser Institute's measure. NBDH provides data on the proportion of patients (non-emergent) treated in several time frames: 0-3 weeks, 3-6 weeks, 6 weeks to 3 months, 3-12 months, 12-18 months, and more than 18 months. By eliminating the proportion of patients treated in the shortest time frame (0-3 weeks), and by taking the mid-points of the remaining time frames to be 4.5, 9.5, 32.5, 65, and 82 weeks respectively, it is possible to construct a weighted average "elective" wait time measure for New Brunswick that should be more comparable with the elective wait times measured by the Fraser Institute. Chart 14 shows the calculated

Chart 15: Comparison between the number of patients waiting according to the New Brunswick Department of Health wait list and the estimate of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting from Waiting Your Turn, 2010

Specialty	NBDH Count*	FI Estimate
Plastic Surgery	1,237	576
Gynaecology	1,316	404
Ophthalmology	2,392	1,374
Otolaryngology	1,403	709
General Surgery	1,915	1,087
Neurosurgery	134	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	3,440	2,161
Cardiac, Thoracic, and Vascular Surgery	383	101
Urology	1,639	1,555
Overall Count	14,402	13,886

*NBDH Patients waiting count at March 31, 2010.

Sources: New Brunswick Department of Health wait list website; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey.

New Brunswick elective wait time measure. This comparison suggests that, if anything, the Fraser Institute's measures actually understate the actual patient experience in New Brunswick. Notably, only in bypass surgery is the Institute's estimate longer than the NBDH elective wait time measure (see chart 14).

With respect to the estimates of the numbers of procedures for which patients are waiting, there are no instances where the Fraser Institute's estimates are larger than the NBDH's counts of patients waiting for care (see chart 15).

Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources

The waiting list data can also be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily found in academic journals. There exist 95 independent waiting time estimates that can be compared with recent Fraser Institute figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Institute figures lie below the comparison values. In only 31 instances does the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they are identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Institute's measurements are not biased upward, but, if anything, may be biased downward, understating actual waiting times. (For further explanation, see *Waiting Your Turn* 2009).

Pan-Canadian benchmarks

Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments agreed to a set of common benchmarks for medically necessary treatment on December 12, 2005 (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005). Chart 16 compares those benchmarks for which a similar comparator exists in *Waiting Your Turn*. Two observations arise from this comparison. First, Canada's physicians tend to have a lower threshold for reasonable wait times than do Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments. Second, median wait times in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50 percent of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider "reasonable."¹⁰

Chart 16: Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Times and Waiting Your Turn, 2010

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/Waiting Your Turn)	Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Time	National Median Wait Time ¹ (Range of Provincial Median Wait Times) in weeks	National Median Reasonable Wait Time ¹ (Range of Provincial Reasonable Median Wait Times) in weeks
Radiation Therapy/Radiation Oncology	Within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	3.3 (2.2-5.5)	4.0 (2.0-6.8)
Hip Replacements	Within 26 weeks	20.4 (14.0-112.0)	12.6 (12.0-24.0)
Knee Replacements	Within 26 weeks	20.4 (14.0-112.0)	12.6 (12.0-24.0)
Cataract Surgery	Within 16 weeks for patients at high risk	12.3 (6.0-32.0)	9.9 (6.0-12.0)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/Level II within 6 weeks/Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0-0.8)/ Urgent: 0.9 (0.1-6.0)/ Elective: 8.3 (3.0-14.0)	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0-0.5)/ Urgent: 1.1 (0.1-2.5)/ Elective: 8.5 (6.0-12.0)

¹These wait times were produced for individual procedures using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties described above under "Methodology." Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005; and the Fraser Institute's National Waiting List Survey.

10 Note that although the median wait time is less than the benchmark wait time, this does not mean that provinces have already met their targets. The pan-Canadian benchmark wait times apply to all patient cases, while the median wait time is the time by which 50 percent of patients have been treated and 50 percent of patients are still waiting for treatment.

Data limitations

Results for PEI must be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size for the province. In order to corroborate our national results given the perceived spike in the orthopaedic median reported this year for PEI, we conducted a separate analysis in which we replaced this year's reported medians for orthopaedic surgery in PEI with last year's values. We found that the median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP for Canada fell to 8.938 (from 8.949), while the median reported for PEI fell to 17.758 (from 21.998). The median patient wait for treatment after appointment with a specialist for Canada fell to 9.232 (from 9.260), while the median reported for PEI fell to 11.247 (from 22.373). The total wait across Canada fell to 18.17 (from 18.209). Hence, it is clear that the perceived spike in data for orthopaedic surgery in PEI does not significantly affect our national estimates.

In order to examine the perceived spike in the wait to see an urologist after referral from a GP in New Brunswick, we conducted a separate analysis where we replaced this year's reported median for urology in New Brunswick with last year's value. We found that the median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP for Canada fell to 8.844 (from 8.949), while the median reported for New Brunswick fell to 18.487 (from 24.644). Clearly, what might be a perceived spike in the data for urological consultations in New Brunswick does not significantly affect our national estimates.

Finally, the Fraser Institute's cardiovascular surgery questionnaire, following the traditional classification by which patients are prioritized, has distinguished among emergent, urgent, and elective patients. However, in discussing the situation with physicians and hospital administrators, it became clear that these classifications are not standardized across provinces. Decisions as to how to group patients were thus left to responding physicians and heart centres. Direct comparisons among provinces using these categories should, therefore, be made tentatively.

Conclusion

The 2010 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that waiting times for elective medical treatment across the provinces have risen from 2009, and remain at a very high level historically. This survey also reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From an economic standpoint, a study by Stokes and Somerville (2008) found that the cumulative total lost economic output that represents the cost of waiting for treatment for total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and MRI scans in 2007 was an estimated \$14.8 billion. More recently, Esmail (2009) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$859 in 2009 if only hours during the normal working week were considered “lost,” and as much as \$2,628 if all hours of the week (minus 8 hours per night sleeping) were considered “lost.”

Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse consequences from prolonged waiting (see *Waiting Your Turn* 2009).

This year’s survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.0 percent (44,680, as calculated by the authors) of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2009/10. It is assumed that most of these patients would be seeking elective treatment in the United States.

Thus, despite provincial wait time strategies, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

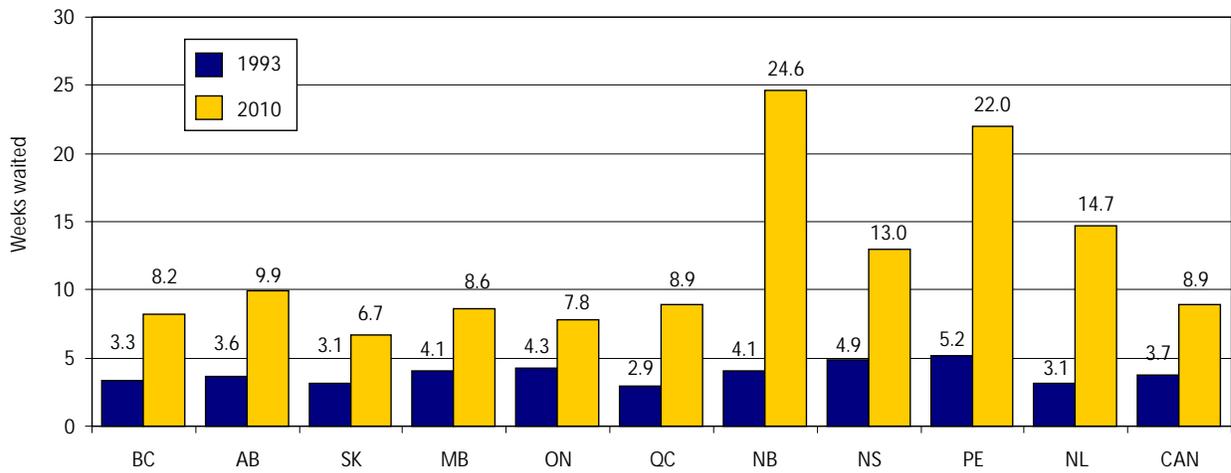
Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median Actual Waiting Times, 1993 and 2010

Graphs 7–8: Median Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 and 2010

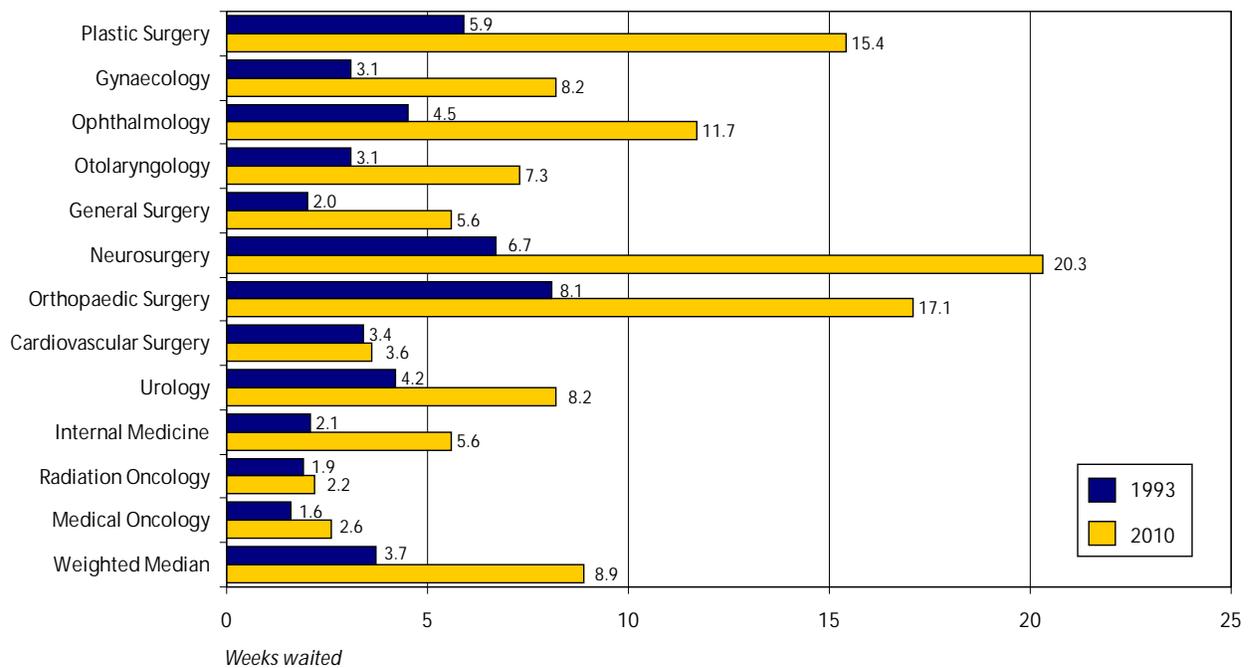
Graphs 9–19: Actual versus Reasonable Waiting Times, 1994 through 2010,
by Province

Graph 1: Median Wait Between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 1993 and 2010



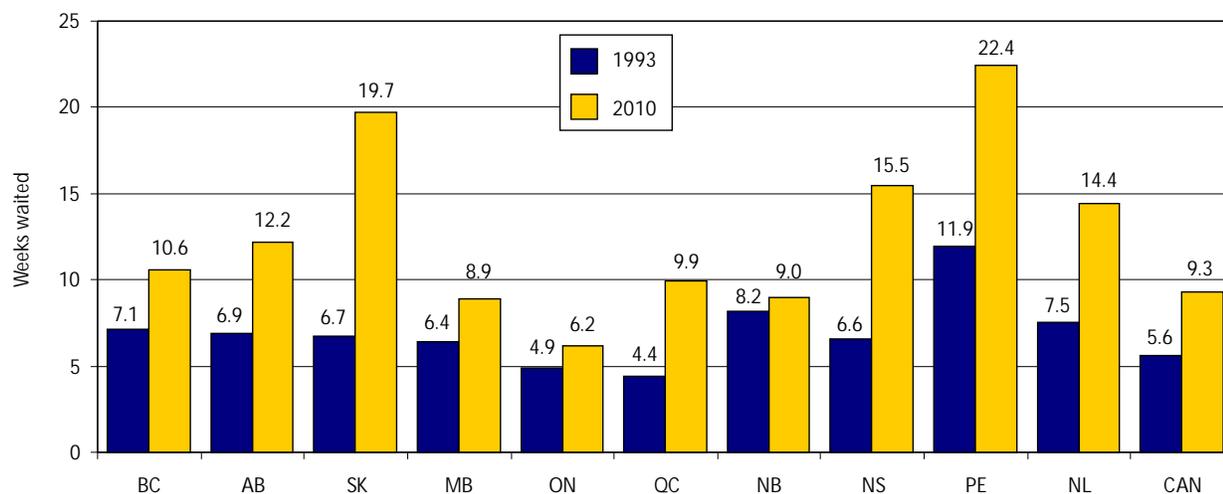
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and Waiting Your Turn, 1997.

Graph 2: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 1993 and 2010



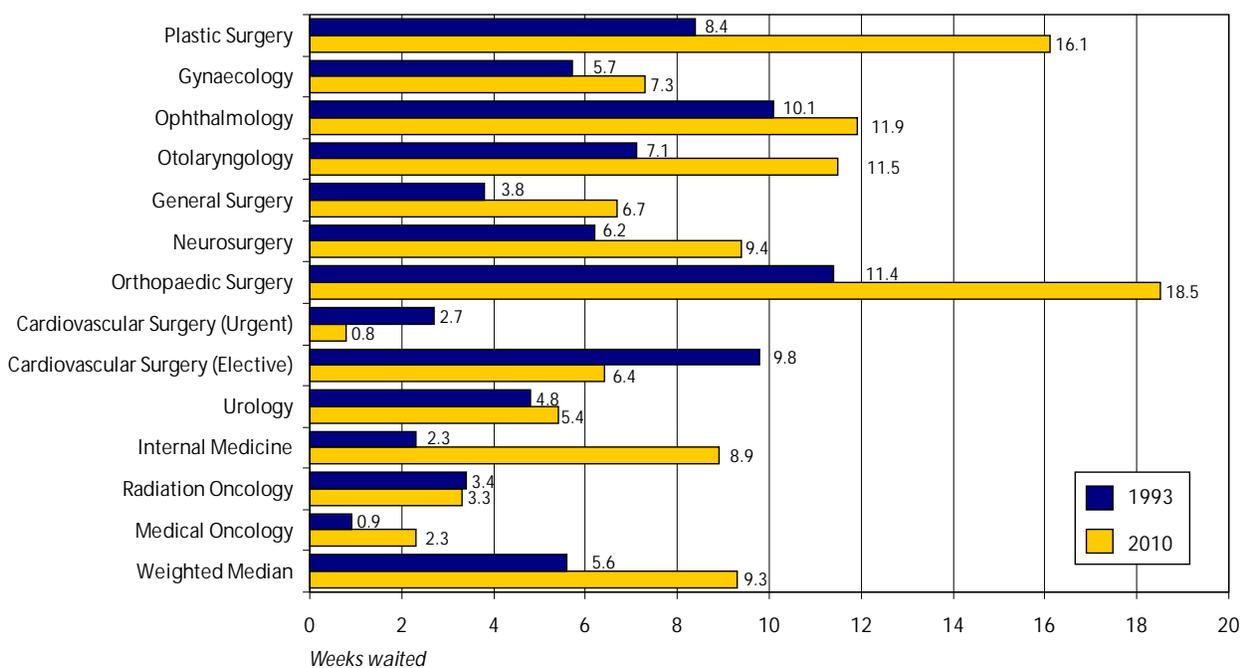
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and Waiting Your Turn, 1997.

Graph 3: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2010



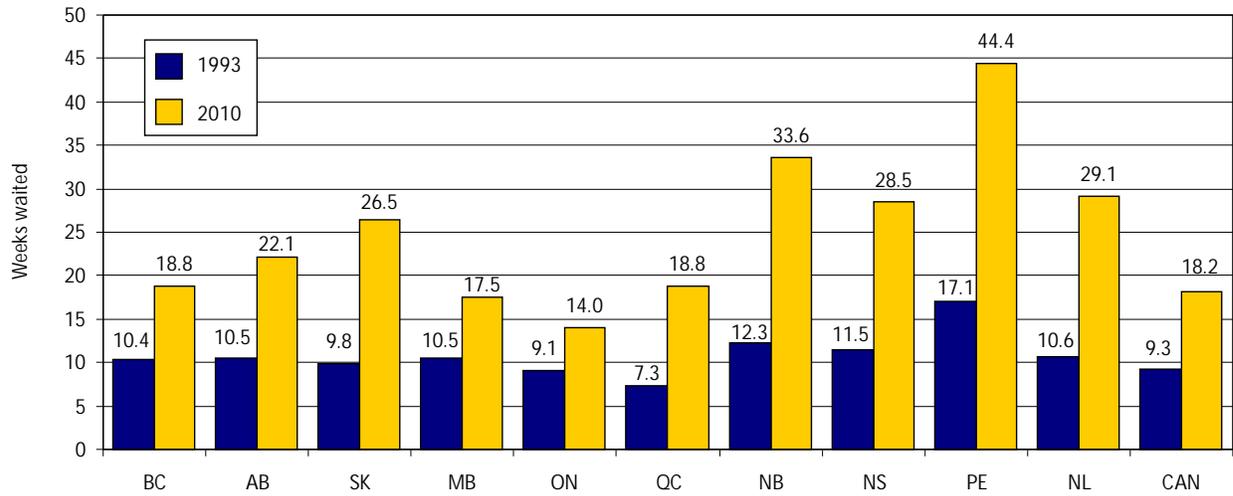
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2010



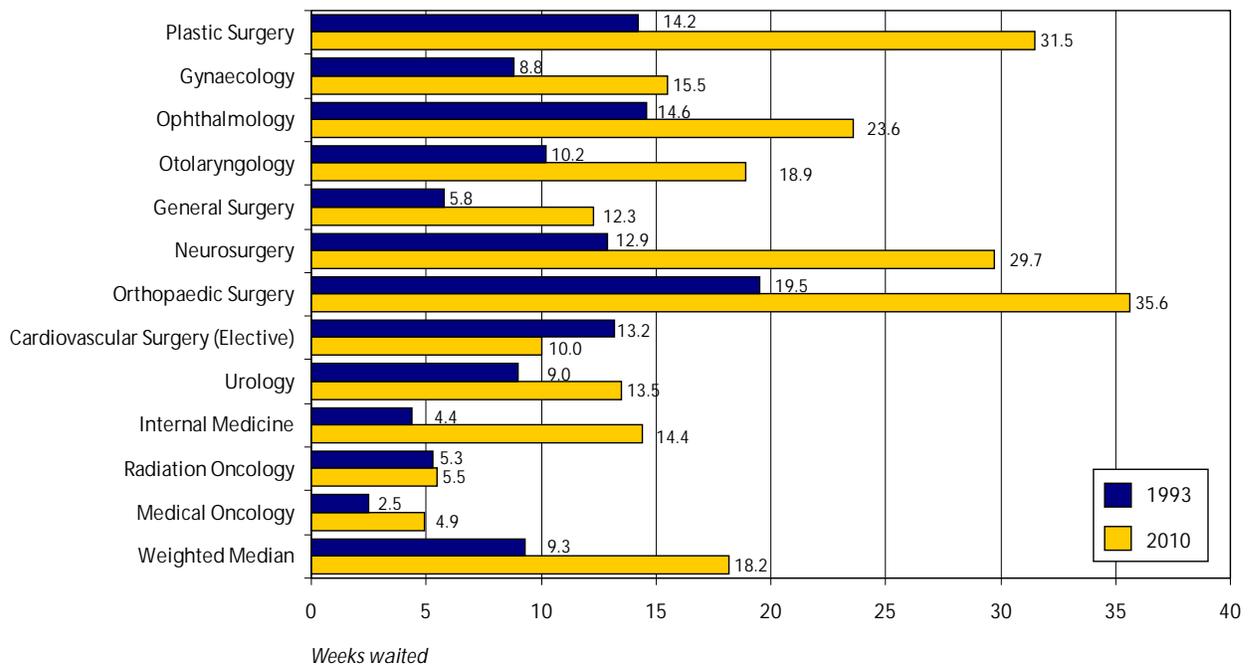
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2010



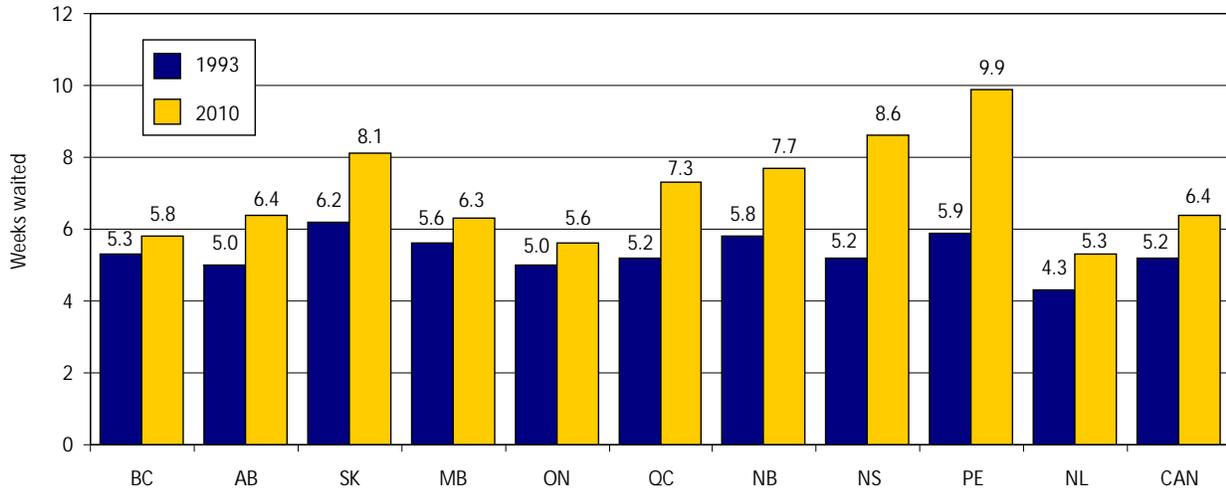
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and Waiting Your Turn, 1997.

Graph 6: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2010



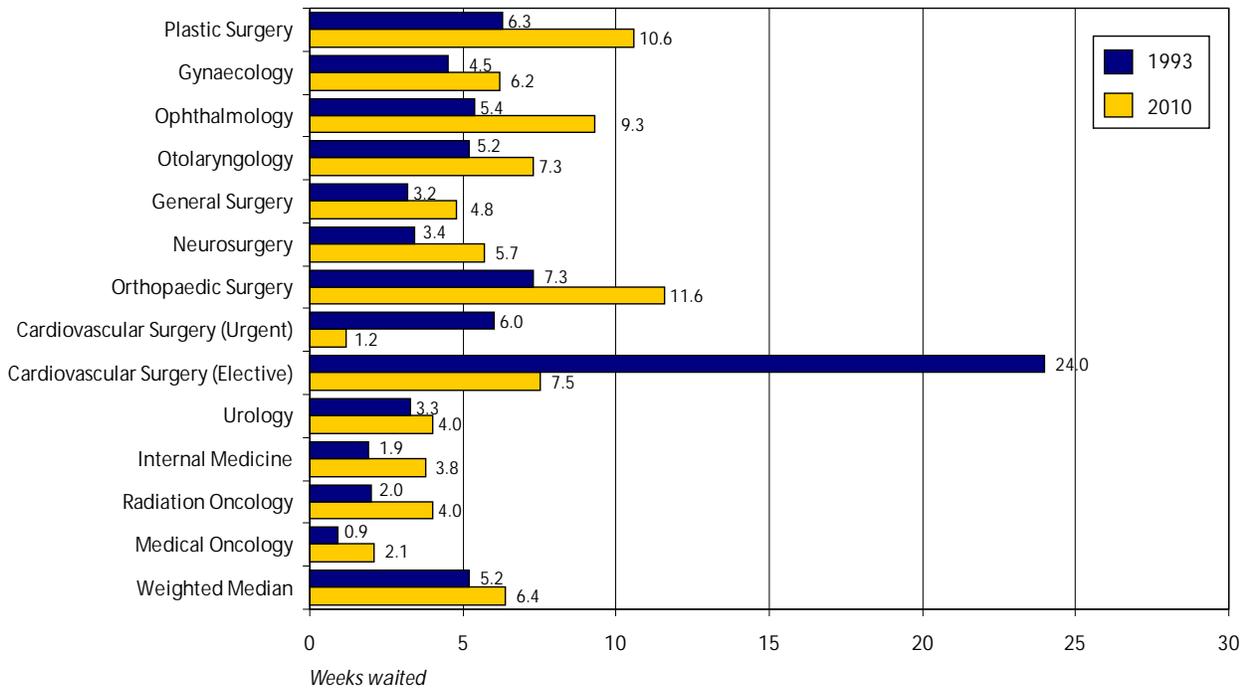
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and Waiting Your Turn, 1997.

Graph 7: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1994 and 2010



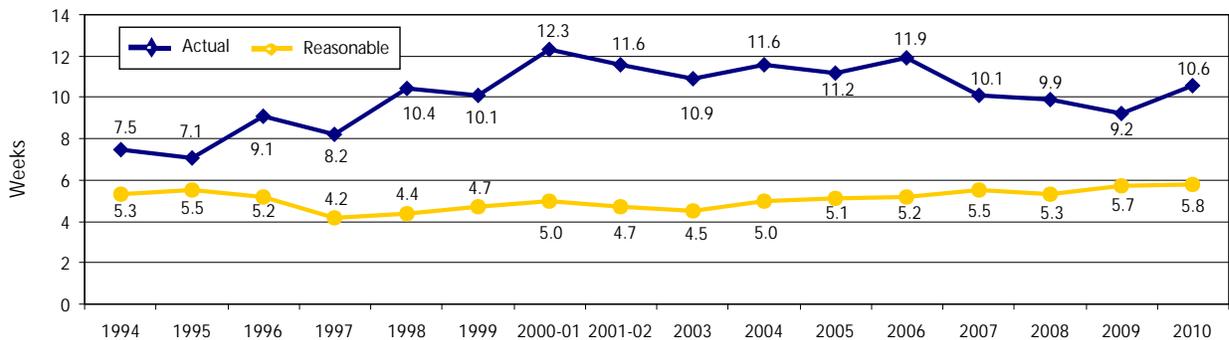
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1994 and 2010



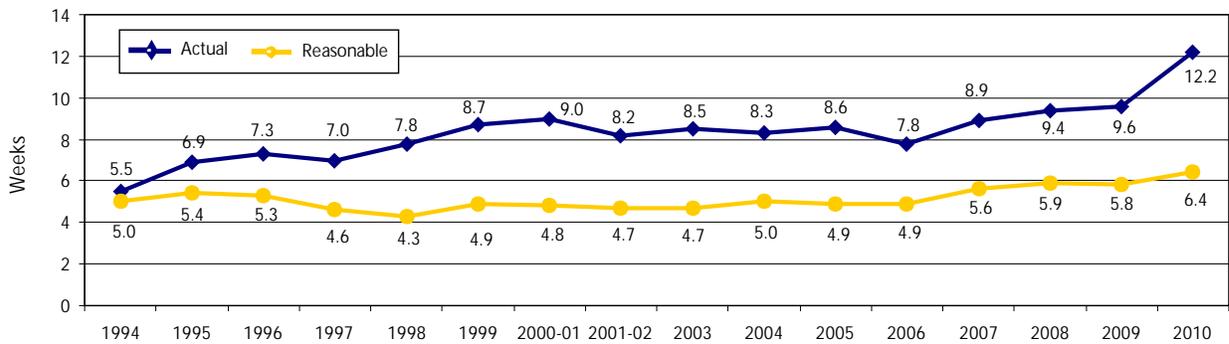
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2010; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



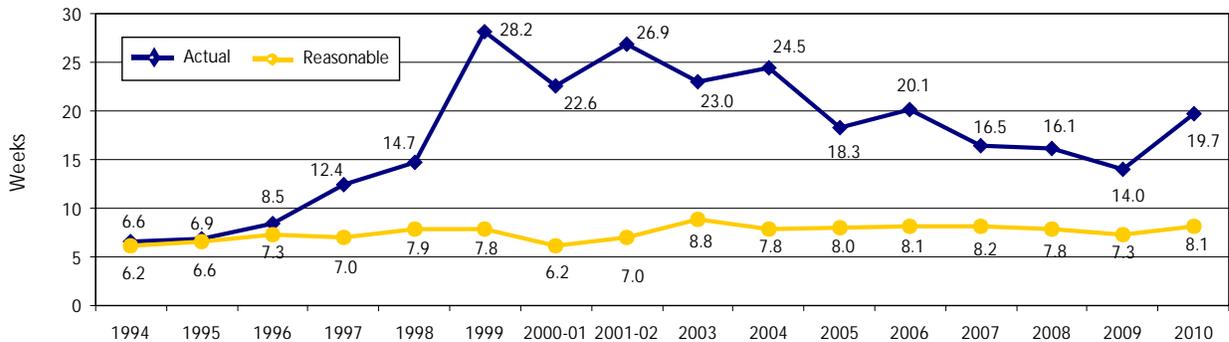
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 10: Alberta—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



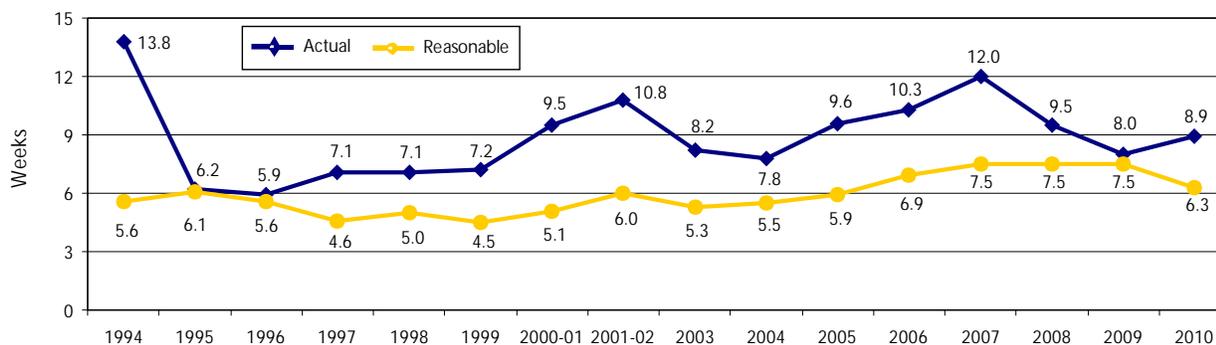
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 11: Saskatchewan—Actual Versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



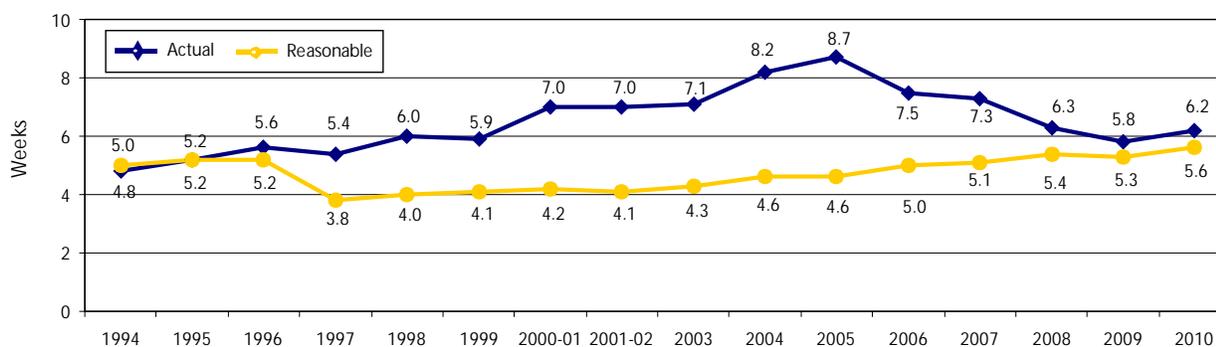
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 12: Manitoba—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



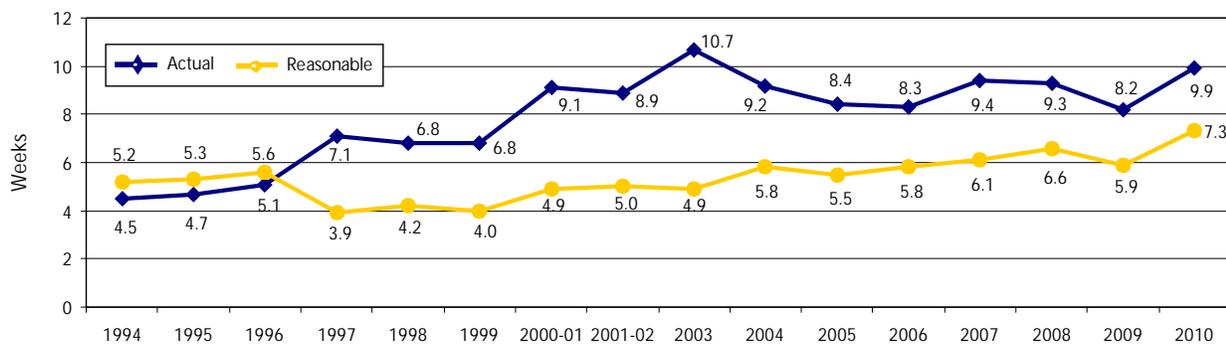
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 13: Ontario—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



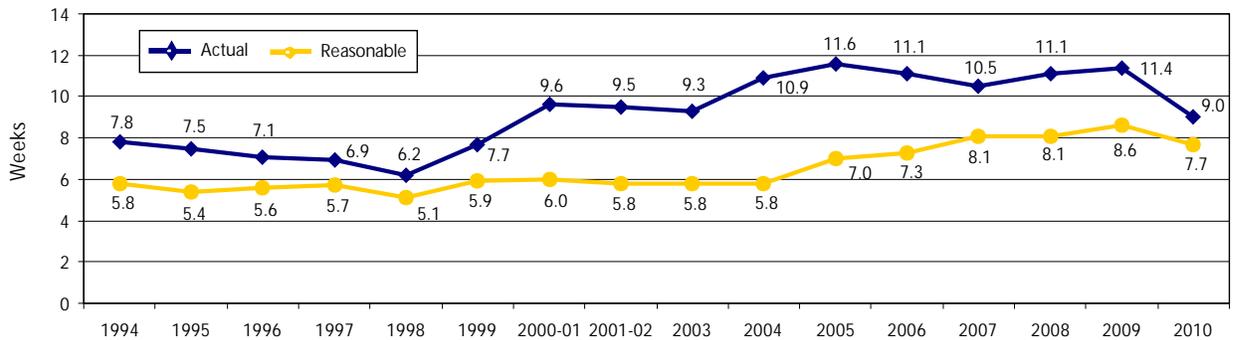
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 14: Quebec—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



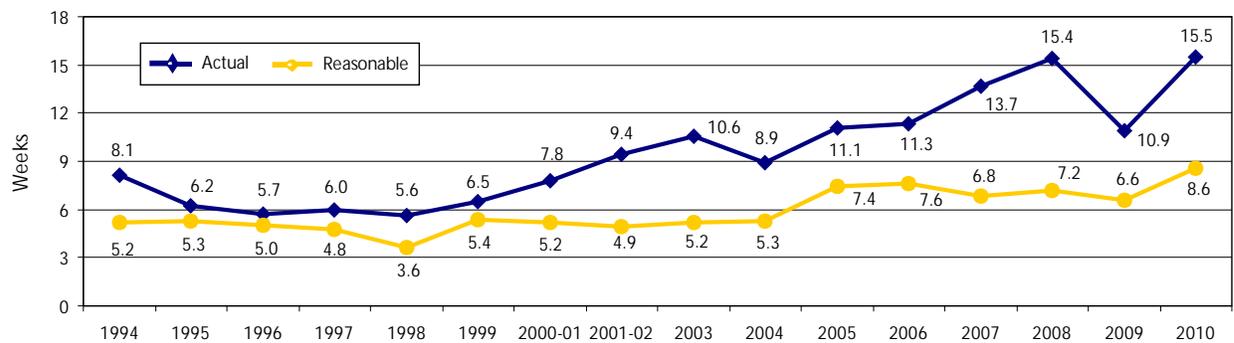
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



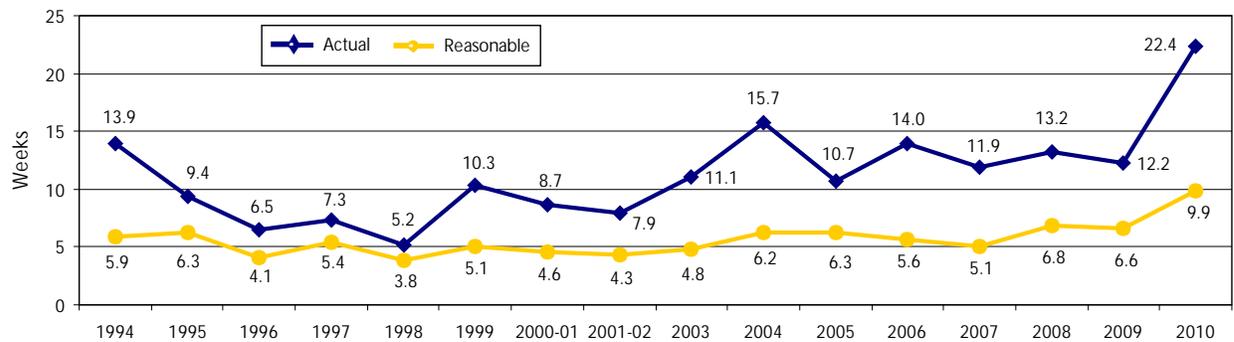
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



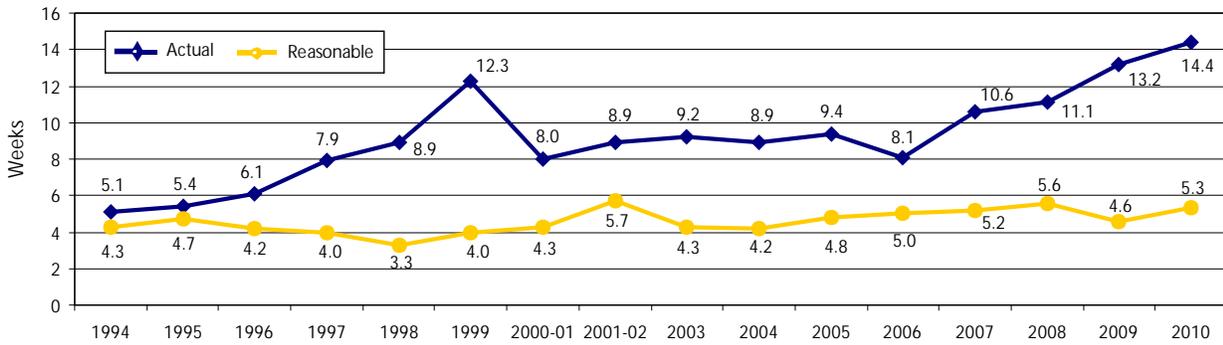
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



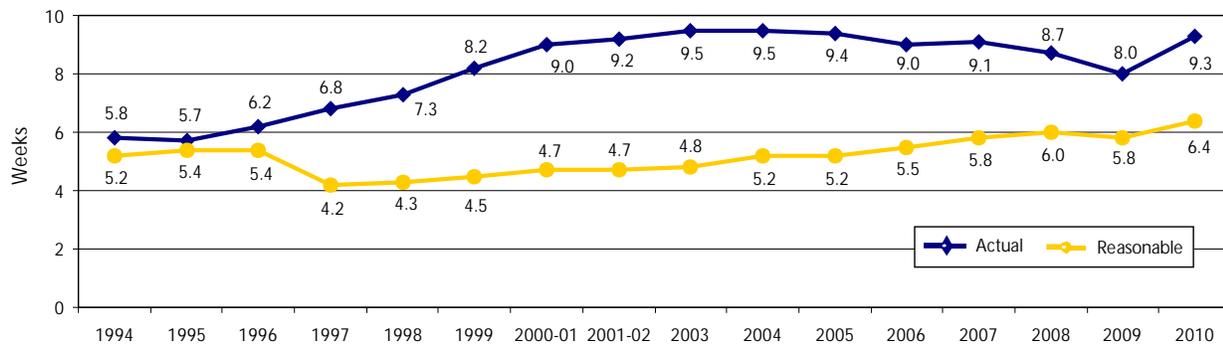
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Graph 19: Canada—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2010



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2010.

Selected data tables

Tables 1a–1c: Summary of Responses

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Province and Specialty

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Province and Specialty

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 5a–5l: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty

Table 6: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Survey Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province

Table 8: Median Reasonable Wait to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 9a–9l: Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks), by Specialty

Table 10: Comparison between the Median Expected Waiting Time and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, by Province and Specialty

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Province and Specialty (Summary)

Tables 13a–13l: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist—Procedures per 100,000 Population (Summary)

Table 15: Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

Table 16a: Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2008-09

Table 16b: Same Day Procedures, 2008-09

*Table 1a: Summary of Responses, 2010
Response Rates (Percentages)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	24%	18%	36%	33%	16%	8%	31%	20%	50%	25%	17%
Gynaecology	21%	20%	17%	19%	20%	12%	9%	19%	38%	20%	18%
Ophthalmology	23%	28%	25%	27%	20%	15%	29%	25%	50%	31%	21%
Otolaryngology	29%	24%	22%	29%	22%	17%	27%	41%	50%	10%	22%
General Surgery	20%	16%	24%	15%	18%	10%	21%	16%	33%	15%	16%
Neurosurgery	41%	17%	22%	13%	13%	5%	0%	22%	—	0%	15%
Orthopaedic Surgery	25%	25%	8%	23%	22%	11%	35%	24%	50%	40%	20%
Cardiovascular Surgery	18%	15%	17%	17%	9%	4%	18%	12%	0%	17%	10%
Urology	26%	34%	0%	20%	19%	10%	19%	33%	0%	29%	19%
Internal Medicine	25%	9%	33%	6%	8%	6%	41%	16%	38%	10%	11%
Radiation Oncology	4%	6%	0%	0%	13%	9%	17%	0%	100%	20%	10%
Medical Oncology	4%	3%	0%	0%	6%	4%	0%	8%	100%	17%	5%
Total	22%	17%	22%	16%	16%	10%	24%	20%	41%	19%	16%

*Table 1b: Summary of Responses, 2010
Number of Responses*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	14	8	4	4	29	8	4	2	1	1	75
Gynaecology	36	30	7	10	136	46	3	10	3	5	286
Ophthalmology	35	27	5	8	74	39	6	10	2	4	210
Otolaryngology	21	11	2	5	45	33	4	9	1	1	132
General Surgery	34	21	9	8	103	43	7	8	2	3	238
Neurosurgery	12	5	2	1	10	3	0	2	-	0	35
Orthopaedic Surgery	42	31	2	9	99	33	11	8	2	6	243
Cardiovascular Surgery	9	5	2	2	13	4	2	2	0	1	40
Urology	20	13	0	3	42	15	3	6	0	2	104
Internal Medicine	56	23	20	5	93	23	12	11	3	3	249
Radiation Oncology	2	2	0	0	22	7	1	0	1	1	36
Medical Oncology	2	1	0	0	8	5	0	1	1	1	19
Total	283	177	53	55	674	259	53	69	16	28	1,667

Table 1c: Summary of Responses, 2010
Number of Questionnaires Mailed Out

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	59	45	11	12	177	97	13	10	2	4	430
Gynaecology	175	152	42	52	687	396	35	52	8	25	1,624
Ophthalmology	150	96	20	30	370	266	21	40	4	13	1,010
Otolaryngology	73	45	9	17	204	192	15	22	2	10	589
General Surgery	169	130	38	52	572	447	33	49	6	20	1,516
Neurosurgery	29	29	9	8	77	62	9	9	—	3	235
Orthopaedic Surgery	168	123	26	40	449	302	31	33	4	15	1,191
Cardiovascular Surgery	51	34	12	12	149	101	11	17	1	6	394
Urology	76	38	12	15	221	146	16	18	2	7	551
Internal Medicine	226	264	60	85	1,114	418	29	68	8	30	2,302
Radiation Oncology	57	31	6	7	173	80	6	9	1	5	375
Medical Oncology	52	40	1	8	133	126	3	12	1	6	382
Total	1,285	1,027	246	338	4,326	2,633	222	339	39	144	10,599

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Specialty, 2010
(in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	56.6	20.5	44.8	51.1	15.5	35.6	32.9	100.6	16.3	41.5	31.5
Gynaecology	14.1	21.9	18.2	19.0	13.0	16.7	12.4	17.2	18.1	15.0	15.5
Ophthalmology	24.0	28.9	16.5	12.0	20.1	24.4	32.1	41.1	24.9	41.0	23.6
Otolaryngology	22.8	29.5	58.6	20.4	14.1	12.4	24.6	25.4	20.7	17.2	18.9
General Surgery	12.2	15.8	15.2	21.4	8.9	12.3	22.2	18.4	22.0	21.1	12.3
Neurosurgery	36.5	22.0	36.2	6.4	33.3	24.8	—	22.5	—	—	29.7
Orthopaedic Surgery	39.4	48.6	59.7	25.9	29.6	26.2	46.4	58.7	152.1	62.4	35.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	11.3	9.7	21.7	11.8	5.3	15.3	15.0	6.5	—	18.3	10.0
Urology	8.9	13.1	—	8.3	10.4	13.8	58.7	27.2	—	40.9	13.5
Internal Medicine	11.4	18.5	21.7	9.3	9.2	19.8	17.6	16.5	35.4	23.8	14.4
Radiation Oncology	9.3	6.6	—	—	4.2	5.6	6.0	—	3.2	5.7	5.5
Medical Oncology	5.4	4.0	—	—	4.2	5.0	—	20.0	—	4.0	4.9
Weighted Median	18.8	22.1	26.5	17.5	14.0	18.8	33.6	28.5	44.4	29.1	18.2

Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Specialty, 2010 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	23.0	9.0	6.0	20.0	8.0	24.0	16.0	56.0	9.0	11.0	15.4
Gynaecology	5.0	12.0	7.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	7.0	9.0	12.0	7.0	8.2
Ophthalmology	10.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	20.0	13.0	31.0	11.7
Otolaryngology	4.0	16.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	17.0	12.0	16.0	6.0	7.3
General Surgery	5.0	7.0	4.0	14.0	5.0	4.0	16.0	10.0	19.0	8.0	5.6
Neurosurgery	25.0	16.0	24.0	4.0	26.0	12.0	—	7.0	—	—	20.3
Orthopaedic Surgery	19.0	26.0	8.0	8.0	16.0	12.0	30.0	20.0	50.0	39.3	17.1
Cardiovascular Surgery	4.0	4.0	3.0	5.0	2.5	4.8	4.0	1.5	—	12.0	3.6
Urology	4.0	10.0	—	5.0	6.0	8.0	50.0	11.0	—	26.0	8.2
Internal Medicine	5.5	4.0	7.8	3.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	6.5	32.0	4.0	5.6
Radiation Oncology	5.0	1.1	—	—	2.0	1.7	2.0	—	0.8	2.0	2.2
Medical Oncology	3.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	—	10.0	—	2.0	2.6
Weighted Median	8.2	9.9	6.7	8.6	7.8	8.9	24.6	13.0	22.0	14.7	8.9

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2010 (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	33.6	11.5	38.8	31.1	7.5	11.6	16.9	44.6	7.3	30.5	16.1
Gynaecology	9.1	9.9	11.2	7.0	6.0	6.7	5.4	8.2	6.1	8.0	7.3
Ophthalmology	14.0	22.9	10.5	6.0	8.1	12.4	8.1	21.1	11.9	10.0	11.9
Otolaryngology	18.8	13.5	49.6	14.4	8.1	6.4	7.6	13.4	4.7	11.2	11.5
General Surgery	7.2	8.8	11.2	7.4	3.9	8.3	6.2	8.4	3.0	13.1	6.7
Neurosurgery	11.5	6.0	12.2	2.4	7.3	12.8	—	15.5	—	—	9.4
Orthopaedic Surgery	20.4	22.6	51.7	17.9	13.6	14.2	16.4	38.7	102.1	23.1	18.5
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.2	1.1	3.9	0.9	1.0	0.1	6.0	0.7	—	1.4	0.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.3	5.7	18.7	6.8	2.8	10.5	11.0	5.0	—	6.3	6.4
Urology	4.9	3.1	—	3.3	4.4	5.8	8.7	16.2	—	14.9	5.4
Internal Medicine	5.9	14.5	13.9	6.3	5.2	11.8	7.6	10.0	3.4	19.8	8.9
Radiation Oncology	4.3	5.5	—	—	2.2	3.9	4.0	—	2.4	3.7	3.3
Medical Oncology	1.9	2.0	—	—	2.2	2.0	—	10.0	2.0	2.0	2.3
Weighted Median	10.6	12.2	19.7	8.9	6.2	9.9	9.0	15.5	22.4	14.4	9.3

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5a: Plastic Surgery, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	52.0	12.0	70.0	52.0	8.0	15.0	14.0	62.0	6.0	28.0
Neurolysis	16.0	10.0	12.0	7.5	8.0	8.0	16.0	60.0	5.0	3.5
Blepharoplasty	24.0	9.0	18.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	18.0	56.0	9.0	5.5
Rhinoplasty	24.0	12.0	40.0	7.0	6.5	4.0	18.0	58.0	8.0	—
Scar Revision	22.0	12.0	18.0	29.5	8.0	14.0	24.0	32.0	9.0	36.0
Hand Surgery	22.0	12.0	18.0	29.5	8.0	14.0	24.0	32.0	9.0	36.0
Craniofacial Procedures	22.0	12.0	6.0	—	8.0	32.0	14.5	24.0	3.0	3.5
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	5.3	4.0	6.0	7.5	5.0	3.5	5.5	6.0	4.0	1.5
Weighted Median	33.6	11.5	38.8	31.1	7.5	11.6	16.9	44.6	7.3	30.5

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.
 A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5b: Gynaecology, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	5.5	8.0	8.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.5	6.3	4.0	6.0
Tubal Ligation	12.0	12.0	15.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	7.5	8.0	7.0	12.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	13.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	5.5	9.0	7.0	8.0
Vaginal Repair	13.0	16.0	14.5	12.0	8.0	8.0	5.5	12.0	7.0	14.0
Tuboplasty	12.0	8.0	22.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	4.0	31.0	7.0	8.5
Laparoscopic Procedures	8.0	11.0	13.5	7.0	7.0	8.0	6.5	6.0	7.0	8.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	7.5	10.0	10.0	7.0	6.0	8.0	4.5	9.0	7.0	6.5
Weighted Median	9.1	9.9	11.2	7.0	6.0	6.7	5.4	8.2	6.1	8.0

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 5c: Ophthalmology, 2010**Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	16.0	32.0	12.0	6.0	8.5	12.0	8.0	25.0	12.0	10.3
Cornea Transplant	26.0	56.0	78.0	—	35.0	100.0	39.0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	6.0	13.0	4.5
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	6.0	8.0	—	4.0	4.0	10.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	4.0	3.3	1.3	6.0	3.5	20.0	12.0	15.0	—	7.0
Lacrimal Duct	12.0	6.0	—	—	16.0	28.5	13.0	—	—	16.0
Strabismus	16.0	14.5	—	—	20.0	12.0	15.0	16.0	12.0	34.0
Operations on Eyelids	13.0	8.0	4.0	10.0	8.0	11.0	6.0	8.0	8.5	6.8
Glaucoma	5.0	4.0	10.0	—	6.0	3.5	10.0	11.0	12.0	3.5
Weighted Median	14.0	22.9	10.5	6.0	8.1	12.4	8.1	21.1	11.9	10.0

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 5d: Otolaryngology, 2010**Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	6.0	10.0	8.0	8.5	7.0	4.0	5.5	6.0	3.0	6.0
Tympanoplasty	21.0	14.0	78.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	6.0	24.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	8.0	10.0	12.0	14.0	8.5	8.0	8.0	12.0	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	26.0	16.0	78.0	16.0	8.0	8.0	8.5	20.0	6.0	7.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	24.0	16.0	78.0	16.0	10.0	11.0	8.5	26.0	6.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	22.0	16.0	78.0	16.0	9.0	8.0	8.5	12.0	6.0	24.0
Weighted Median	18.8	13.5	49.6	14.4	8.1	6.4	7.6	13.4	4.7	11.2

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5e: General Surgery, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	8.5	12.0	12.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	7.0	12.0
Cholecystectomy	9.0	10.0	18.0	7.0	4.5	7.0	8.0	9.0	4.5	12.0
Colonoscopy	12.0	17.0	16.0	12.0	5.0	12.0	6.0	15.0	2.5	24.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	4.0	5.5	5.5	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.3	1.8	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	9.0	12.0	23.0	8.0	5.0	12.0	8.0	13.0	4.5	24.0
Breast Biopsy	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.5	2.8	2.0
Mastectomy	2.0	3.0	2.0	4.0	2.5	3.0	4.0	2.5	2.8	2.0
Bronchus and Lung	3.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	12.0	20.0	10.0	8.0	5.5	14.5	16.0	—	4.0	52.0
Weighted Median	7.2	8.8	11.2	7.4	3.9	8.3	6.2	8.4	3.0	13.1

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5f: Neurosurgery, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	7.0	10.0	12.0	—	10.0	—	—	3.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	18.0	10.0	18.0	4.0	10.0	20.0	—	22.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	8.0	4.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	6.5	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	4.0	10.0	—	8.0	—	—	21.5	—	—
Carotid Endarterectomy	10.0	3.5	2.5	—	10.0	—	—	14.0	—	—
Weighted Median	11.5	6.0	12.2	2.4	7.3	12.8	—	15.5	—	—

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	13.0	12.0	52.0	12.5	12.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	12.0
Removal of Pins	12.0	12.0	52.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	6.5	20.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	24.0	25.0	52.0	20.5	14.0	16.0	20.0	52.0	112.0	40.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	16.0	24.0	52.0	15.5	14.0	12.0	10.0	52.0	112.5	6.0
Hallux Valgus/ Hammer Toe	19.0	16.0	52.0	15.5	15.5	13.5	12.0	12.0	108.5	8.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	20.0	52.0	15.5	9.0	12.0	11.0	17.0	8.0	5.5
Rotator Cuff Repair	26.0	22.0	46.0	12.0	13.0	12.0	16.0	47.0	111.5	6.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	14.0	20.0	52.0	18.5	15.0	12.5	12.0	32.0	208.0	5.5
Routine Spinal Instability	40.0	40.0	52.0	8.0	20.0	12.0	22.0	18.0	208.0	16.0
Weighted Median	20.4	22.6	51.7	17.9	13.6	14.2	16.4	38.7	102.1	23.1

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.8	0.5	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.5	0.5	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.5	—	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	—	0.1	—
	Pacemaker Operations	0.5	0.5	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	—
	Weighted Median	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.3	1.5	—	1.0	1.0	0.1	6.0	0.6	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.3	1.3	—	1.0	1.0	0.1	6.0	0.6	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	1.0	2.4	0.5	1.0	0.1	6.0	0.8	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	1.0	2.6	0.0	1.0	0.0	—	1.0	1.5
	Pacemaker Operations	1.3	0.5	4.0	—	1.0	0.0	—	0.8	—
	Weighted Median	1.2	1.1	3.9	0.9	1.0	0.1	6.0	0.7	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	7.0	7.0	—	7.0	3.0	14.0	11.0	6.0	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	8.0	6.0	—	7.0	3.0	20.0	11.0	6.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	6.0	24.0	5.5	4.0	12.0	11.0	4.3	12.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	8.0	4.0	18.0	4.0	6.5	6.0	—	2.0	6.0
	Pacemaker Operations	7.0	4.5	—	—	2.0	1.0	—	4.0	—
	Weighted Median	7.3	5.7	18.7	6.8	2.8	10.5	11.0	5.0	—

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5i: Urology, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	9.0	5.0	—	3.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	16.0	—	56.0
Radical Prostatectomy	5.0	6.0	—	3.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	12.0	—	12.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	6.0	3.5	—	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	7.5	—	10.3
Radical Cystectomy	4.0	4.0	—	3.5	6.0	3.5	3.0	8.0	—	6.5
Cystoscopy	3.0	2.5	—	3.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	18.0	—	13.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	6.5	—	3.5	8.0	8.0	24.0	18.0	—	23.0
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	3.5	—	5.0	4.0	4.0	7.5	7.5	—	10.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	6.0	4.0	—	3.3	8.0	5.0	7.5	10.0	—	26.0
Weighted Median	4.9	3.1	—	3.3	4.4	5.8	8.7	16.2	—	14.9

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 5j: Internal Medicine, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	7.0	18.0	18.0	8.0	6.0	15.0	10.0	12.0	—	22.0
Angiography/Angioplasty	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.0	2.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	10.0
Endoscopy of the respiratory tract	2.8	4.0	3.5	2.5	4.0	3.0	10.0	3.0	—	11.0
Gastroscopy	7.5	12.0	18.0	3.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	3.0	22.0
Weighted Median	5.9	14.5	13.9	6.3	5.2	11.8	7.6	10.0	3.4	19.8

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 5k: Radiation Oncology, 2010**Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	3.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	4.0	—	1.5	3.0
Cancer of the Cervix	3.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	4.0	—	1.5	3.0
Lung Cancer	4.0	3.8	—	—	2.0	3.0	4.0	—	2.0	3.0
Prostate Cancer	6.0	6.8	—	—	2.5	4.5	4.0	—	3.0	4.0
Breast Cancer	3.0	6.0	—	—	2.0	4.5	4.0	—	2.0	4.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.8	1.0	—	—	1.0	1.0	2.0	—	1.0	2.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.0	2.0	—	—	1.8	1.0	2.0	—	1.0	4.0
Weighted Median	4.3	5.5	—	—	2.2	3.9	4.0	—	2.4	3.7

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 5l: Medical Oncology, 2010**Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	4.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	1.8	4.0	—	—	3.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.0
Breast Cancer	1.8	1.8	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	10.0	2.0	2.0
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	1.0	—	—	0.5	0.5	—	0.4	0.2	1.0
Weighted Median	1.9	2.0	—	—	2.2	2.0	—	10.0	2.0	2.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 6(i): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg
Plastic Surgery	33.6	26.6	26%	11.5	16.7	-31%	38.8	35.4	10%	31.1	12.1	156%	7.5	9.5	-21%
Gynaecology	9.1	8.7	5%	9.9	7.6	30%	11.2	8.7	28%	7.0	7.0	1%	6.0	6.0	1%
Ophthalmology	14.0	7.5	86%	22.9	11.5	100%	10.5	10.5	0%	6.0	7.8	-23%	8.1	5.9	38%
Otolaryngology	18.8	15.9	18%	13.5	13.1	4%	49.6	32.7	52%	14.4	10.3	40%	8.1	7.7	6%
General Surgery	7.2	7.1	2%	8.8	7.6	16%	11.2	7.0	60%	7.4	5.8	29%	3.9	4.7	-18%
Neurosurgery	11.5	13.9	-17%	6.0	9.3	-35%	12.2	—	—	2.4	3.8	-37%	7.3	6.8	8%
Orthopaedic Surgery	20.4	19.1	6%	22.6	18.0	25%	51.7	32.8	57%	17.9	20.5	-12%	13.6	11.8	15%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.2	0.9	39%	1.1	1.9	-45%	3.9	2.1	87%	0.9	4.0	-77%	1.0	0.6	75%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.3	5.5	31%	5.7	5.7	1%	18.7	22.4	-16%	6.8	14.0	-52%	2.8	2.5	8%
Urology	4.9	6.0	-19%	3.1	5.8	-48%	—	11.9	—	3.3	3.3	1%	4.4	3.6	23%
Internal Medicine	5.9	7.2	-17%	14.5	10.3	40%	13.9	10.7	31%	6.3	5.6	12%	5.2	6.0	-14%
Radiation Oncology	4.3	2.0	117%	5.5	4.3	29%	—	—	—	—	3.8	—	2.2	2.3	-3%
Medical Oncology	1.9	2.0	-6%	2.0	3.5	-43%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.2	2.1	8%
Weighted Median	10.6	9.2	15%	12.2	9.6	27%	19.7	14.0	41%	8.9	8.0	11%	6.2	5.8	6%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 6(ii): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg
Plastic Surgery	11.6	19.4	-40%	16.9	15.7	8%	44.6	16.8	166%	7.3	12.0	-39%	30.5	17.6	74%
Gynaecology	6.7	7.3	-9%	5.4	8.4	-36%	8.2	5.9	38%	6.1	11.6	-47%	8.0	10.6	-24%
Ophthalmology	12.4	10.1	23%	8.1	14.7	-45%	21.1	8.6	144%	11.9	8.2	46%	10.0	8.4	19%
Otolaryngology	6.4	7.5	-14%	7.6	10.3	-27%	13.4	8.6	56%	4.7	—	—	11.2	6.5	71%
General Surgery	8.3	6.3	32%	6.2	4.9	26%	8.4	5.8	43%	3.0	3.3	-8%	13.1	12.8	2%
Neurosurgery	12.8	13.7	-7%	—	15.0	—	15.5	9.8	57%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.2	15.5	-9%	16.4	19.9	-17%	38.7	44.8	-14%	102.1	38.2	167%	23.1	18.0	28%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.1	0.5	-83%	6.0	6.1	-2%	0.7	0.4	58%	—	1.9	—	1.4	—	—
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	10.5	4.7	122%	11.0	14.3	-23%	5.0	3.8	33%	-	4.0	—	6.3	—	—
Urology	5.8	4.3	34%	8.7	10.6	-18%	16.2	13.4	20%	—	11.9	—	14.9	9.4	58%
Internal Medicine	11.8	8.3	42%	7.6	10.8	-30%	10.0	5.4	87%	3.4	5.7	-41%	19.8	21.1	-6%
Radiation Oncology	3.9	4.0	-3%	4.0	2.9	36%	—	—	—	2.4	1.6	48%	3.7	4.2	-11%
Medical Oncology	2.0	1.7	18%	—	4.0	—	10.0	3.2	209%	2.0	2.0	0%	2.0	—	—
Weighted Median	9.9	8.2	21%	9.0	11.4	-21%	15.5	10.9	42%	22.4	12.2	84%	14.4	13.2	9%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2010
Proportion of Survey Waiting Times that Fall Within Given Ranges

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0 - 3.99 weeks	20.0%	12.6%	14.1%	19.8%	26.2%	19.4%	13.9%	16.4%	25.6%	23.5%
4 - 7.99 weeks	24.8%	25.7%	19.7%	33.7%	30.2%	26.9%	29.6%	21.7%	38.4%	25.7%
8 - 12.99 weeks	21.4%	26.1%	24.9%	19.8%	25.4%	28.7%	32.0%	28.1%	20.9%	18.4%
13 - 25.99 weeks	16.5%	20.5%	18.8%	13.9%	10.5%	15.1%	16.0%	13.4%	4.7%	19.1%
26 - 51.99 weeks	9.3%	9.6%	4.7%	8.7%	4.6%	5.8%	6.1%	8.7%	0.0%	5.1%
1 year plus	8.0%	5.4%	17.8%	4.0%	3.1%	4.1%	2.4%	11.7%	10.5%	8.1%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 8: Median Reasonable Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, 2010
(in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	13.0	9.4	15.1	24.4	9.0	7.7	13.4	25.0	—	—	10.6
Gynaecology	6.3	5.6	10.6	4.6	5.9	6.5	5.9	7.4	6.1	4.0	6.2
Ophthalmology	7.4	8.9	10.6	5.5	7.5	10.8	7.0	11.3	9.0	9.5	9.3
Otolaryngology	6.1	7.0	17.0	6.6	7.2	6.2	7.7	10.7	6.2	4.2	7.3
General Surgery	4.4	5.3	5.1	4.0	4.4	5.0	7.2	5.9	2.4	6.5	4.8
Neurosurgery	5.4	4.8	4.7	7.2	4.9	7.4	—	4.8	—	—	5.7
Orthopaedic Surgery	9.8	11.1	11.5	15.9	11.1	11.5	11.7	19.0	37.6	10.0	11.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.2	1.2	1.9	0.9	1.6	0.1	3.3	0.7	—	0.0	1.2
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	6.6	7.5	10.0	6.8	6.2	12.0	10.0	5.1	—	1.6	7.5
Urology	4.0	4.0	—	4.6	3.5	4.0	7.4	8.8	—	3.1	4.0
Internal Medicine	3.6	5.4	3.2	2.7	3.6	4.1	3.1	4.0	5.8	1.9	3.8
Radiation Oncology	6.3	6.8	—	—	3.2	3.7	4.0	—	2.0	3.1	4.0
Medical Oncology	1.9	3.4	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.6	2.4	—	2.1
Weighted Median	5.8	6.4	8.1	6.3	5.6	7.3	7.7	8.6	9.9	5.3	6.4

*Table 9a: Plastic Surgery, 2010**Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	16.0	14.0	12.0	26.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	20.0	—	—
Neurolysis	5.8	5.5	10.0	—	7.5	6.0	24.0	14.0	—	—
Blepharoplasty	12.0	13.0	18.5	—	7.5	4.0	12.0	28.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty	12.0	13.0	17.5	—	6.0	12.0	12.0	34.0	—	—
Scar Revision	14.0	14.0	18.5	26.0	8.0	12.0	24.0	34.0	—	—
Hand Surgery	8.0	10.0	14.5	17.0	7.5	6.0	5.0	12.0	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	9.0	13.0	6.0	—	6.0	8.0	5.0	12.0	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	2.3	4.0	8.0	4.0	2.0	5.0	4.0	—	—
Weighted Median	13.0	9.4	15.1	24.4	9.0	7.7	13.4	25.0	—	—

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

*Table 9b: Gynaecology, 2010**Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	4.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	4.0	3.3	3.0	6.0	4.0	3.0
Tubal Ligation	9.0	10.0	12.0	4.0	6.0	10.0	10.0	9.0	7.0	6.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	8.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	7.0	4.0
Vaginal Repair	8.0	10.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	9.0	7.0	4.0
Tuboplasty	6.5	8.0	24.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	—	12.0	7.0	4.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	6.0	10.0	12.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	4.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	5.5	10.0	10.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	7.0	7.0	4.0
Weighted Median	6.3	5.6	10.6	4.6	5.9	6.5	5.9	7.4	6.1	4.0

Table 9c: Ophthalmology, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	8.0	11.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	7.0	12.0	9.0	10.0
Cornea Transplant	12.0	14.0	18.0	—	12.0	13.5	8.0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	8.0	8.0	12.0	6.0	12.0	13.5	10.0	6.0	10.0	16.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	4.0	8.0	—	4.0	6.0	6.5	5.0	9.0	12.0	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	3.3	3.3	3.3	4.0	3.5	3.0	6.0	—	—	5.0
Lacrimal Duct	10.0	8.0	—	—	12.0	14.0	7.0	—	—	—
Strabismus	10.0	12.0	—	—	12.0	12.0	7.0	6.0	4.0	24.0
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	7.8
Glaucoma	4.0	4.0	5.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	9.0	4.3
Weighted Median	7.4	8.9	10.6	5.5	7.5	10.8	7.0	11.3	9.0	9.5

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9d: Otolaryngology, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	4.0	6.0	6.5	4.5	5.0	4.0	5.5	6.0	4.0	2.0
Tympanoplasty	12.0	8.0	21.5	8.0	11.0	8.0	10.0	24.0	8.0	6.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	4.0	5.0	7.0	5.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	7.0	8.0	24.5	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.5	12.0	8.0	6.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	7.0	8.0	24.5	7.0	10.5	8.0	9.5	12.0	8.0	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	6.0	8.0	24.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	9.5	12.0	8.0	6.0
Weighted Median	6.1	7.0	17.0	6.6	7.2	6.2	7.7	10.7	6.2	4.2

*Table 9e: General Surgery, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	6.0	10.5	6.0	14.0
Cholecystectomy	4.0	6.0	7.0	4.0	5.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	2.0	14.0
Colonoscopy	6.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	4.5	4.0	7.0	8.0	2.5	6.0
Intestinal Operations	3.3	4.0	4.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	3.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	6.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.0	12.0	18.5	12.0	5.0	4.0
Breast Biopsy	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	2.5	1.0	—
Mastectomy	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.5	3.0	4.0	3.0	1.0	—
Bronchus and Lung	3.0	8.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	4.0	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	8.0	10.0	2.0	3.5	6.0	6.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	20.0	12.0	—	4.0	—
Weighted Median	4.4	5.3	5.1	4.0	4.4	5.0	7.2	5.9	2.4	6.5

*Table 9f: Neurosurgery, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	5.0	7.0	8.0	—	7.0	12.0	—	3.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	8.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	—	6.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	12.0	—	4.0	—	—
Carotid Endarterectomy	3.0	4.0	2.0	—	2.0	4.0	—	3.0	—	—
Weighted Median	5.4	4.8	4.7	7.2	4.9	7.4	—	4.8	—	—

Table 9g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	6.0	8.0	6.0	14.0	6.0	7.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	6.0
Removal of Pins	7.5	11.0	12.0	20.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	20.0	8.0	6.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	12.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	12.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	8.5	9.5	12.0	6.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	24.0	12.0	12.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	8.0	12.0	16.0	6.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	12.0
Digit Neuroma	6.5	10.0	12.0	6.0	11.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	8.0	9.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	7.0	10.0	9.0	16.0	8.0	9.0	8.5	16.0	208.0	8.5
Ostectomy (All Types)	8.0	9.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	208.0	9.0
Routine Spinal Instability	10.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	10.0	208.0	12.0
Weighted Median	9.8	11.1	11.5	15.9	11.1	11.5	11.7	19.0	37.6	10.0

Table 9h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.5	0.5	—	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.5	0.5	—	0.1	0.0	—	0.3	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	—	0.3	0.1	0.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.5	—	0.1	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.1	0.0
	Pacemaker Operations	0.3	—	0.1	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.1	—
	Weighted Median	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.5	1.5	—	1.0	2.0	0.1	2.5	0.6	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.5	1.3	—	1.0	2.0	—	2.5	0.6	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.0	—	2.5	2.3	0.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	1.0	—	4.0	1.0	0.0
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	1.0	2.0	—	1.0	—	4.0	0.8	—
	Weighted Median	1.2	1.2	1.9	0.9	1.6	0.1	3.3	0.7	—
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	7.0	6.0	—	7.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	8.0	9.0	—	7.0	7.0	—	8.0	6.0	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	6.0	6.0	10.0	5.5	4.0	—	8.0	7.0	3.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	4.0	—	10.0	4.0	4.0	—	12.0	6.0	1.5
	Pacemaker Operations	6.0	8.0	—	—	6.0	—	12.0	4.0	—
	Weighted Median	6.6	7.5	10.0	6.8	6.2	12.0	10.0	5.1	—

Table 9i: Urology, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	6.0	5.0	—	8.0	4.5	4.0	7.0	10.0	—	6.0
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	4.0	—	3.0	6.0	4.0	5.0	8.0	—	3.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	2.0	2.5	—	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	4.0	—	3.0
Radical Cystectomy	2.0	4.0	—	4.5	4.0	4.0	2.0	4.0	—	3.0
Cystoscopy	3.0	3.5	—	4.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	9.5	—	3.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	10.0	12.0	—	8.0	8.0	8.0	16.0	12.0	—	3.0
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	3.5	—	3.0	3.5	3.0	9.0	4.0	—	3.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	3.0	11.0	—	5.0	8.0	6.0	11.0	8.0	—	—
Weighted Median	4.0	4.0	—	4.6	3.5	4.0	7.4	8.8	—	3.1

Table 9j: Internal Medicine, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	4.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	6.0	2.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	3.0	4.0	1.5	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	1.5
Bronchoscopy	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	2.0
Gastroscopy	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	3.5	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0
Weighted Median	3.6	5.4	3.2	2.7	3.6	4.1	3.1	4.0	5.8	1.9

Table 9k: Radiation Oncology, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	3.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	3.5	4.0	—	1.0	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	3.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	3.5	4.0	—	1.0	2.0
Lung Cancer	4.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	4.0	—	1.0	2.0
Prostate Cancer	8.0	12.0	—	—	4.0	5.5	4.0	—	3.0	4.0
Breast Cancer	7.0	6.0	—	—	3.5	4.5	4.0	—	2.0	3.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	2.0	1.0	—	—	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	1.0	2.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	3.5	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.0	2.0	—	1.0	2.0
Weighted Median	6.3	6.8	—	—	3.2	3.7	4.0	—	2.0	3.1

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 9l: Medical Oncology, 2010
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in Weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	1.8	2.0	—	—	1.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Breast Cancer	1.8	4.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	4.0	3.0	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	1.0	—	—	0.5	0.4	—	0.1	0.2	—
Weighted Median	1.9	3.4	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.6	2.4	—

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 10(i): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	33.6	13.0	159%	11.5	9.4	23%	38.8	15.1	156%	31.1	24.4	27%	7.5	9.0	-17%
Gynaecology	9.1	6.3	44%	9.9	5.6	78%	11.2	10.6	5%	7.0	4.6	51%	6.0	5.9	1%
Ophthalmology	14.0	7.4	90%	22.9	8.9	158%	10.5	10.6	-1%	6.0	5.5	10%	8.1	7.5	9%
Otolaryngology	18.8	6.1	209%	13.5	7.0	92%	49.6	17.0	192%	14.4	6.6	119%	8.1	7.2	12%
General Surgery	7.2	4.4	62%	8.8	5.3	67%	11.2	5.1	120%	7.4	4.0	85%	3.9	4.4	-12%
Neurosurgery	11.5	5.4	113%	6.0	4.8	26%	12.2	4.7	157%	2.4	7.2	-67%	7.3	4.9	49%
Orthopaedic Surgery	20.4	9.8	108%	22.6	11.1	103%	51.7	11.5	350%	17.9	15.9	13%	13.6	11.1	22%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.2	1.2	0%	1.1	1.2	-15%	3.9	1.9	101%	0.9	0.9	0%	1.0	1.6	-37%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	7.3	6.6	10%	5.7	7.5	-23%	18.7	10.0	87%	6.8	6.8	0%	2.8	6.2	-55%
Urology	4.9	4.0	21%	3.1	4.0	-24%	—	—	—	3.3	4.6	-27%	4.4	3.5	26%
Internal Medicine	5.9	3.6	64%	14.5	5.4	171%	13.9	3.2	342%	6.3	2.7	136%	5.2	3.6	45%
Radiation Oncology	4.3	6.3	-31%	5.5	6.8	-19%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.2	3.2	-32%
Medical Oncology	1.9	1.9	0%	2.0	3.4	-42%	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.2	2.0	14%
Weighted Median	10.6	5.8	83%	12.2	6.4	92%	19.7	8.1	145%	8.9	6.3	41%	6.2	5.6	10%

A = Median Actual Wait;

R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;

D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 10(ii): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	11.6	7.7	52%	16.9	13.4	26%	44.6	25.0	78%	7.3	—	—	30.5	—	—
Gynaecology	6.7	6.5	2%	5.4	5.9	-9%	8.2	7.4	11%	6.1	6.1	0%	8.0	4.0	100%
Ophthalmology	12.4	10.8	15%	8.1	7.0	16%	21.1	11.3	86%	11.9	9.0	33%	10.0	9.5	5%
Otolaryngology	6.4	6.2	4%	7.6	7.7	-2%	13.4	10.7	25%	4.7	6.2	-25%	11.2	4.2	168%
General Surgery	8.3	5.0	66%	6.2	7.2	-14%	8.4	5.9	42%	3.0	2.4	26%	13.1	6.5	100%
Neurosurgery	12.8	7.4	74%	—	—	—	15.5	4.8	223%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	14.2	11.5	23%	16.4	11.7	40%	38.7	19.0	103%	102.1	37.6	172%	23.1	10.0	132%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.1	0.1	27%	6.0	3.3	84%	0.7	0.7	-2%	—	—	—	1.4	0.0	—
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	10.5	12.0	-12%	11.0	10.0	10%	5.0	5.1	-3%	—	—	—	6.3	1.6	294%
Urology	5.8	4.0	44%	8.7	7.4	17%	16.2	8.8	84%	—	—	—	14.9	3.1	378%
Internal Medicine	11.8	4.1	190%	7.6	3.1	141%	10.0	4.0	151%	3.4	5.8	-41%	19.8	1.9	921%
Radiation Oncology	3.9	3.7	4%	4.0	4.0	0%	—	—	—	2.4	2.0	17%	3.7	3.1	19%
Medical Oncology	2.0	2.0	0%	—	—	—	10.0	1.6	508%	2.0	2.4	-17%	2.0	—	—
Weighted Median	9.9	7.3	36%	9.0	7.7	17%	15.5	8.6	79%	22.4	9.9	126%	14.4	5.3	172%

A = Median Actual Wait;

R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;

D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	1.0%	—	0.3%
Gynaecology	1.5%	0.6%	0.8%	0.0%	2.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	1.3%
Ophthalmology	1.3%	2.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	0.8%
Otolaryngology	0.7%	1.9%	0.3%	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
General Surgery	0.9%	0.3%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Neurosurgery	0.8%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%	1.3%	—	0.0%	—	—	0.9%
Orthopaedic Surgery	1.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.3%	0.3%	3.0%	0.0%	1.8%	2.0%	1.5%	0.0%	—	0.0%	1.2%
Urology	0.8%	1.8%	—	0.5%	2.5%	0.2%	0.3%	1.2%	—	0.0%	1.5%
Internal Medicine	1.1%	1.7%	1.0%	1.3%	1.1%	0.9%	0.3%	1.2%	0.5%	0.0%	1.1%
Radiation Oncology	1.3%	5.0%	—	—	1.2%	1.1%	1.0%	—	0.5%	—	1.3%
Medical Oncology	0.5%	1.0%	—	—	7.7%	0.8%	—	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%
All Specialties	1.0%	1.4%	0.8%	0.6%	1.3%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	1.0%

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2010

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	
Plastic Surgery	5,591	1,093	1,554	1,331	3,458	2,554	576	1,211	29	416	
Gynaecology	4,069	3,736	1,353	952	7,818	4,543	404	934	127	676	
Ophthalmology	16,602	14,950	3,166	1,587	28,261	75,185	1,374	5,954	271	1,124	
Otolaryngology	5,490	2,849	4,981	1,232	8,529	3,386	709	895	45	566	
General Surgery	10,410	9,608	4,534	2,986	17,836	28,554	1,087	3,253	165	3,373	
Neurosurgery	1,319	512	406	45	2,246	2,483	—	128	—	—	
Orthopaedic Surgery	14,517	10,745	8,888	3,682	28,240	12,327	2,161	5,700	2,526	1,545	
Cardiovascular Surgery	211	106	70	25	457	34	101	29	—	1	
Urology	4,420	2,070	—	388	15,379	13,116	1,555	4,559	—	2,068	
Internal Medicine	5,016	8,982	4,065	1,581	14,423	25,562	339	2,039	8	3,489	
Radiation Oncology	73	69	—	—	139	168	51	—	4	3	
Medical Oncology	89	90	—	—	643	391	—	136	4	38	
Residual	42,328	40,707	22,141	10,051	85,390	76,960	5,528	18,517	2,149	11,209	
Total	110,135	95,518	51,158	23,858	212,818	245,264	13,886	43,356	5,327	24,507	
Proportion of Population	2.47%	2.59%	4.97%	1.95%	1.63%	3.13%	1.85%	4.62%	3.78%	4.82%	
Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2010									825,827		
Percentage of Population									2.45%		

Note: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures or specialties due to rounding. All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13a: Plastic Surgery, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	3,349	491	878	721	1,360	1,104	285	362	8	136
Neurolysis	209	124	28	24	573	287	28	171	2	3
Blepharoplasty	180	57	51	5	138	49	10	33	1	2
Rhinoplasty	723	108	355	49	417	103	67	163	5	—
Scar Revision	702	159	134	368	513	555	102	335	6	181
Hand Surgery	429	154	108	164	458	457	85	146	6	93
Total	5,591	1,093	1,554	1,331	3,458	2,554	576	1,211	29	416

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13b: Gynaecology, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	740	1,299	232	180	1,522	924	52	173	24	162
Tubal Ligation	965	575	413	193	1,571	317	136	158	28	167
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,351	878	326	287	2,524	1,494	122	276	36	137
Vaginal Repair	81	102	28	36	198	151	6	35	1	69
Tuboplasty	35	13	7	5	31	36	0	13	1	1
Laparoscopic Procedures	232	264	86	58	673	467	14	33	9	16
Hysteroscopic Procedures	666	605	263	193	1,298	1,154	74	247	28	125
Total	4,069	3,736	1,353	952	7,818	4,543	404	934	127	676

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13c: Ophthalmology, 2010
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	14,303	13,537	2,992	1,151	21,632	67,408	1,226	4,644	254	905
Cornea Transplant	207	307	47	—	695	1,086	0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	131	98	33	5	400	283	16	10	4	4
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	134	160	—	31	568	791	6	310	4	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	665	509	46	358	1,669	2,742	8	850	—	85
Lacrimal Duct	205	55	—	—	815	1,503	39	—	—	36
Strabismus	445	98	—	—	1,465	637	39	74	3	40
Operations on Eyelids	513	187	48	41	1,017	735	41	66	5	55
Total	16,602	14,950	3,166	1,587	28,261	75,185	1,374	5,954	271	1,124

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

The procedure data reported does not necessarily capture surgeries performed in private facilities in all provinces. A large number of ophthalmological surgeries are performed in private facilities in some provinces, while the distribution of surgeries between public and private facilities varies significantly between provinces.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13d: Otolaryngology, 2010
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	310	508	274	129	1,854	967	171	111	13	139
Tympanoplasty	272	66	437	65	347	242	70	63	3	121
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	292	336	81	137	1,341	681	78	126	—	—
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,200	1,056	2,624	461	2,717	310	271	290	17	96
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	895	128	566	159	739	507	37	161	3	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,521	755	999	281	1,532	679	83	145	9	210
Total	5,490	2,849	4,981	1,232	8,529	3,386	709	895	45	566

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13e: General Surgery, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,602	1,607	704	436	2,623	1,867	292	602	44	273
Cholecystectomy	1,397	1,322	891	410	2,198	2,288	353	446	27	338
Colonoscopy	4,645	3,986	1,914	1,215	5,297	19,005	95	1,544	46	2,174
Intestinal Operations	2,060	1,810	711	757	6,085	3,862	144	400	32	358
Haemorrhoidectomy	142	197	194	20	256	368	24	87	1	150
Breast Biopsy	16	29	25	2	48	52	3	122	1	5
Mastectomy	271	273	56	99	804	572	96	53	12	35
Bronchus and Lung	61	—	—	17	217	161	23	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	7	40	48	4	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	214	384	41	23	268	331	52	—	1	39
Total	10,410	9,608	4,534	2,986	17,836	28,554	1,087	3,253	165	3,373

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13f: Neurosurgery, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	45	79	23	—	312	—	—	8	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	723	211	167	15	1,012	1,808	—	107	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	498	211	214	30	831	675	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	5	2	1	—	11	—	—	4	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	48	9	2	—	80	—	—	9	—	—
Total	1,319	512	406	45	2,246	2,483	-	128	—	—

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2010
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	875	431	624	186	1,292	689	98	131	8	93
Removal of Pins	852	462	735	190	1,847	826	144	263	9	109
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	9,115	7,069	5,136	2,507	17,942	7,345	1,409	3,915	1,960	1,171
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	398	301	209	53	704	269	36	197	37	12
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	187	28	108	45	604	110	30	41	44	10
Digit Neuroma	666	663	741	287	1,306	1,194	93	256	11	54
Rotator Cuff Repair	919	600	393	104	1,294	711	77	459	137	24
Ostectomy (All Types)	663	569	562	260	1,951	850	132	343	320	24
Routine Spinal Instability	843	622	381	50	1,301	334	141	95	—	50
Total	14,517	10,745	8,888	3,682	28,240	12,327	2,161	5,700	2,526	1,545

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2010
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	60	55	—	17	164	25	69	8	—	—
Valves & Septa of the Heart	44	28	—	7	107	9	31	5	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	2	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	8	4	3	0	15	0	—	1	—	1
Pacemaker Operations	96	18	67	—	167	0	—	14	—	—
Total	211	106	70	25	457	34	101	29	—	1

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13i: Urology, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	802	158	-	30	1,027	505	113	207	—	288
Radical Prostatectomy	88	65	—	12	374	112	25	56	—	37
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	526	127	—	24	832	442	48	120	—	71
Radical Cystectomy	14	7	—	2	61	17	2	7	—	3
Cystoscopy	1,568	1,209	—	151	10,072	10,814	649	3,630	—	1,368
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,017	256	—	63	1,621	607	486	332	—	183
Bladder Fulguration	395	243	—	103	1,356	605	231	202	—	93
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	11	4	—	3	35	14	1	5	—	27
Total	4,420	2,070	—	388	15,379	13,116	1,555	4,559	—	2,068

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 13j: Internal Medicine, 2010

Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	3,624	8,126	3,399	1,324	12,380	22,580	140	1,714	—	2,989
Angiography /Angioplasty	1,094	453	419	200	888	1,325	128	226	4	231
Bronchoscopy	82	123	23	24	633	894	37	39	—	119
Gastroscopy	216	279	223	33	522	763	34	60	5	150
Total	5,016	8,982	4,065	1,581	14,423	25,562	339	2,039	8	3,489

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 13k: Radiation Oncology, 2010**Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	73	69	—	—	139	168	51	—	4	3

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

*Table 13l: Medical Oncology, 2010**Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	89	90	—	—	643	391	—	136	4	38

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist in 2010 (Procedures per 100,000 population)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	126	30	151	109	26	33	77	129	21	82
Gynaecology	91	101	131	78	60	58	54	100	90	133
Ophthalmology	373	405	307	130	216	960	183	635	192	221
Otolaryngology	123	77	484	101	65	43	95	95	32	111
General Surgery	234	261	440	244	136	365	145	347	117	663
Neurosurgery	30	14	39	4	17	32	—	14	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	326	291	863	301	216	157	288	608	1,791	304
Cardiovascular Surgery	5	3	7	2	3	0	14	3	—	0
Urology	99	56	—	32	118	168	208	486	-	406
Internal Medicine	113	244	395	129	110	327	45	217	6	686
Radiation Oncology	2	2	—	—	1	2	7	-	3	1
Medical Oncology	2	2	—	—	5	5	—	14	3	7

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15(i): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg
Plastic Surgery	5,591	4,195	33%	1,093	1,541	-29%	1,554	1,535	1%	1,331	592	125%	3,458	4,089	-15%
Gynaecology	4,069	4,108	-1%	3,736	2,874	30%	1,353	1,126	20%	952	881	8%	7,818	7,602	3%
Ophthalmology	16,602	8,458	96%	14,950	7,470	100%	3,166	3,244	-2%	1,587	2,111	-25%	28,261	20,449	38%
Otolaryngology	5,490	4,462	23%	2,849	2,834	1%	4,981	3,442	45%	1,232	1,003	23%	8,529	8,258	3%
General Surgery	10,410	9,373	11%	9,608	8,037	20%	4,534	2,701	68%	2,986	2,194	36%	17,836	20,803	-14%
Neurosurgery	1,319	1,460	-10%	512	762	-33%	406	—	—	45	73	-38%	2,246	2,040	10%
Orthopaedic Surgery	14,517	13,178	10%	10,745	8,314	29%	8,888	5,457	63%	3,682	3,701	-1%	28,240	23,892	18%
Cardiovascular Surgery	211	151	39%	106	192	-45%	70	80	-11%	25	98	-75%	457	263	74%
Urology	4,420	5,226	-15%	2,070	3,818	-46%	-	2,569	-	388	661	-41%	15,379	11,733	31%
Internal Medicine	5,016	6,374	-21%	8,982	6,642	35%	4,065	3,172	28%	1,581	1,427	11%	14,423	17,216	-16%
Radiation Oncology	73	29	147%	69	52	32%	—	—	—	—	2	—	139	141	-2%
Medical Oncology	89	91	-3%	90	163	-44%	—	—	—	—	—	—	643	585	10%
Residual	42,328	35,093	21%	40,707	30,609	33%	22,141	15,110	47%	10,051	8,841	14%	85,390	75,877	13%
Total	110,135	92,199	19%	95,518	73,308	30%	51,158	38,436	33%	23,858	21,583	11%	212,818	192,948	10%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
The ophthalmology and oncology data must be regarded as incomplete as not all procedures are necessarily reported in the procedure data.

Table 15(ii): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2010 and 2009

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg	2010	2009	% chg
Plastic Surgery	2,554	4,133	-38%	576	569	1%	1,211	475	155%	29	60	-51%	416	273	52%
Gynaecology	4,543	5,006	-9%	404	663	-39%	934	768	22%	127	211	-40%	676	943	-28%
Ophthalmology	75,185	61,123	23%	1,374	2,616	-47%	5,954	2,700	121%	271	135	101%	1,124	928	21%
Otolaryngology	3,386	4,113	-18%	709	962	-26%	895	756	18%	45	—	—	566	368	54%
General Surgery	28,554	20,365	40%	1,087	806	35%	3,253	2,412	35%	165	164	1%	3,373	3,008	12%
Neurosurgery	2,483	2,656	-6%	—	271	—	128	200	-36%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	12,327	13,135	-6%	2,161	2,660	-19%	5,700	6,257	-9%	2,526	892	183%	1,545	881	75%
Cardiovascular Surgery	34	200	-83%	101	191	-47%	29	15	89%	—	5	—	1	—	—
Urology	13,116	9,513	38%	1,555	1,849	-16%	4,559	4,069	12%	—	221	—	2,068	1,302	59%
Internal Medicine	25,562	18,651	37%	339	538	-37%	2,039	1,232	66%	8	12	-31%	3,489	4,012	-13%
Radiation Oncology	168	170	-1%	51	38	33%	—	—	—	4	2	75%	3	5	-45%
Medical Oncology	391	340	15%	—	84	—	136	41	228%	4	4	-10%	38	—	—
Residual	76,960	61,617	25%	5,528	7,091	-22%	18,517	12,904	43%	2,149	1,026	109%	11,209	10,049	12%
Total	245,264	201,021	22%	13,886	18,338	-24%	43,356	31,830	36%	5,327	2,731	95%	24,507	21,769	13%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact estimated values which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
The ophthalmology and oncology data must be regarded as incomplete as not all procedures are necessarily reported in the procedure data.

Table 16a(i): Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2008-2009

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	14,249	9,459	3,532	4,036	41,328	2,330	2,965	460	1,268
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	437	527	79	58	909	76	52	4	44
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	136	123	8	21	406	35	20	1	18
Menisectomy/Arthroscopy	179	250	35	24	449	36	39	9	30
Ostectomy	1,418	1,569	379	407	3,987	304	319	45	153
Removal of Pins	1,025	1,111	214	245	2,662	172	204	20	96
Rotator Cuff Repair	647	762	162	174	1,635	67	162	18	66
Routine Spinal Instability	1,093	970	378	324	3,374	334	275	0	163
Bladder Fulguration	1,371	939	252	243	4,907	635	411	33	209
Cystoscopy	2,128	1,332	491	207	8,165	665	968	28	674
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,685	1,725	426	287	7,706	739	644	157	263
Radical Cystectomy	179	158	45	33	532	29	46	2	25
Radical Prostatectomy	912	753	204	206	3,238	257	244	26	159
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,193	1,111	290	172	4,735	325	211	62	262
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	42	57	25	28	179	5	25	2	13
Cataract Removal	88	320	48	93	172	14	51	5	6
Cornea Transplant	41	93	29	23	27	0	11	0	2
Cornea—Pterygium	1	5	0	1	9	0	1	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	118	297	86	119	176	4	65	4	6
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	52	95	52	10	64	13	23	0	24
Operations on Eyelids	143	190	59	41	374	39	71	1	9
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	690	4,828	254	1,371	1,958	2	280	1	15
Strabismus Surgery	27	15	6	4	41	1	6	0	0
Myringotomy	255	293	80	60	705	194	118	13	99
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	420	706	29	108	1,155	108	153	2	108
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	1,667	1,758	322	474	7,311	501	538	18	208
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,198	1,514	971	392	2,223	707	443	98	407
Tympanoplasty	89	94	3	10	342	49	137	4	13
Radiotherapy	348	637	260	9	3,030	382	381	85	28
Chemotherapy	2,325	2,242	670	515	10,644	1,134	685	92	909
Breast Biopsy	80	59	17	16	175	11	19	6	8
Bronchus and Lung	997	874	243	424	3,630	299	400	1	107

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2008-09" and Fiscal 2004/05 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Table 16a(ii): *Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2008-2009*

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cholecystectomy	3,477	3,552	1,552	1,479	6,622	1,181	1,130	233	673
Haemorrhoidectomy	43	94	35	23	105	22	17	3	10
Intestinal Operations	8,084	5,727	2,054	2,151	22,970	1,662	2,308	253	1,267
Mastectomy	2,581	2,164	693	438	3,914	367	582	108	329
Varicose Veins	41	86	30	62	72	10	14	2	20
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,872	909	386	184	4,389	302	228	1	305
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,189	2,819	1,102	761	8,513	456	705	0	380
Blepharoplasty	8	13	4	4	51	2	3	0	0
Mammoplasty	841	1,053	217	238	2,233	424	130	50	188
Scar Revision	1,271	2,037	328	546	2,623	163	355	22	246
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,493	1,514	785	893	8,551	602	698	0	507
Pacemaker Operations	2,623	1,565	649	678	6,926	806	557	108	233
Valves & Septa of the Heart	1,815	1,471	360	384	5,563	265	492	0	130
Angiography/Angioplasty	6,408	3,112	2,940	959	19,081	1,062	1,751	42	731
Bronchoscopy	822	1,520	250	292	5,171	125	381	7	279
Gastroscopy	433	622	287	129	2,076	229	175	25	129
Dilation and Curettage	426	314	71	80	763	35	47	11	41
Hysterectomy	5,395	4,716	1,430	1,470	15,752	1,154	1,583	265	886
Hysteroscopic Procedures	197	147	40	26	254	29	45	1	23
Laparoscopic Procedures	521	312	145	43	1,654	47	122	8	35
Tubal Ligation	1,715	1,889	686	703	4,970	417	374	85	302
Tuboplasty	49	42	10	7	90	2	12	5	3
Vaginal Repair	179	339	56	127	750	30	105	6	235
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	416	424	17	129	753	96	88	5	81
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,215	3,918	1,805	1,583	12,779	1,001	1,449	179	575
Carotid Endarterectomy	688	286	92	163	1,216	133	96	24	73
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	337	330	75	146	692	51	71	2	49
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	306	408	104	139	1,761	73	97	6	27
Colonoscopy	2,973	2,190	1,275	934	9,231	846	639	84	681
Aneurysm Surgery	295	234	35	116	731	51	81	0	12
Residual	96,122	89,555	24,045	26,206	266,333	19,233	24,312	1,936	12,947
Total	187,068	168,228	51,207	51,228	532,837	40,343	48,614	4,668	26,789

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2008-09" and Fiscal 2004/05 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Table 16b(i): Same Day Procedures, 2008-2009

Procedure	BC	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	5,500	1,604	2,322	25,313	1,334	950	450	254
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/ Metatarsophalangeal)	855	130	121	1,704	110	145	13	56
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	375	100	130	1,620	97	158	20	45
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	3,321	589	748	5,150	602	640	42	372
Ostectomy	1,044	183	325	2,775	266	238	35	71
Removal of Pins	2,668	521	516	5,342	454	366	49	187
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,191	282	275	3,541	184	346	46	142
Routine Spinal Instability	3	3	0	8	0	0	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	3,758	498	824	12,724	968	992	33	272
Cystoscopy	25,049	7,760	2,409	122,777	4,159	9,518	548	4,797
Non-radical Prostatectomy	948	126	239	1,192	104	28	5	4
Radical Prostatectomy	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,364	417	448	6,086	387	624	22	96
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	51	35	19	46	2	0	0	41
Cataract Removal	46,396	12,919	9,886	132,164	7,954	9,609	1,096	4,586
Cornea Transplant	373	2	66	1,006	0	133	0	3
Cornea—Pterygium	566	145	20	1,725	68	86	15	42
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,045	455	287	7,204	45	1,279	15	64
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	838	231	175	2,586	143	174	5	92
Operations on Eyelids	1,907	559	173	6,234	320	359	31	414
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	7,950	1,674	1,733	22,838	33	2,665	38	615
Strabismus Surgery	1,419	259	425	3,768	133	234	15	61
Myringotomy	2,434	1,701	728	13,069	1,418	843	205	1,104
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,176	637	806	7,696	400	476	72	348
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	231	31	34	891	7	6	0	7
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	3,201	778	1,105	15,437	949	310	52	304
Tympanoplasty	584	288	202	1,914	314	136	20	249
Radiotherapy	521	3	7	275	284	1	0	11
Chemotherapy	137	1,298	15	4,224	20	22	12	74
Breast Biopsy	202	408	46	1,083	49	1,787	15	133
Bronchus and Lung	56	4	6	126	1	8	1	0
Cholecystectomy	4,596	1,021	1,568	18,778	1,113	1,446	76	793
Haemorrhoidectomy	780	403	107	2,553	135	330	13	315

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2008-09" and Fiscal 2004/05 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Table 16b(ii): Same Day Procedures, 2008-2009

Procedure	BC	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Intestinal Operations	18,695	4,668	5,004	82,508	210	4,086	687	3,389
Mastectomy	4,466	754	849	12,811	887	525	127	585
Varicose Veins	887	181	88	2,459	158	269	17	19
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	216	95	15	875	77	25	0	0
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	48	12	17	131	6	2	0	1
Blepharoplasty	382	142	30	1,740	26	28	5	16
Mammoplasty	2,508	435	483	6,607	635	174	23	65
Scar Revision	388	60	103	709	57	189	15	16
Pacemaker Operations	1,354	228	241	1,751	26	402	0	120
Valves & Septa of the Heart	34	2	0	25	0	0	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	7,812	1,421	2,506	3,997	51	206	7	468
Bronchoscopy	732	88	200	3,059	66	294	22	283
Gastroscopy	1,068	358	437	4,712	64	347	54	226
Dilation and Curettage	6,570	1,435	2,004	19,028	735	1,393	298	1,366
Hysterectomy	9	109	24	655	1	11	1	2
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4,420	1,327	1,410	10,998	828	1,381	204	975
Laparoscopic Procedures	988	186	385	3,345	62	165	58	66
Tubal Ligation	2,465	744	728	8,646	525	651	126	420
Tuboplasty	103	6	11	112	3	9	4	3
Vaginal Repair	143	43	28	540	26	48	4	22
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	3,090	822	753	6,420	321	380	55	105
Hernia/Hydrocele	9,995	2,211	2,593	25,036	2,223	2,120	258	1,020
Carotid Endarterectomy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,561	979	1,106	9,831	574	949	110	592
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	705	114	142	3,583	79	185	17	46
Colonoscopy	44,077	14,764	12,940	153,156	708	12,142	2,148	11,095
Aneurysm Surgery	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Residual	109,885	34,278	32,411	444,699	12,829	36,831	3,058	27,487
Total	349,149	100,526	90,274	1,239,283	43,230	96,721	10,242	63,939

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2008-09" and Fiscal 2004/05 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.

Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Appendix A: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies

Alberta

Alberta Health Services: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/761.asp>

Alberta Health Services: <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp>

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Health:
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/cpa/mediasite/waittimes.html> and
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/waitlist/>

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network: www.sasksurgery.ca

Saskatchewan Specialist Directory: <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/specialist-directory>
Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (diagnostic imaging):
<http://health.gove.sk.ca/diagnostic-imaging-network>

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency: www.saskcancer.ca

Manitoba

Manitoba Ministry of Health: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/index.html>

Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care:
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/>

Cardiac Care Network of Ontario: <http://www.ccn.on.ca/>

Cancer Care Ontario: <http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/wait-times/>

Quebec

Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services:
<http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/g74web/default.asp>

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Department of Health:
<http://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx>

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health: <http://gov.ns.ca/health/waittimes/>

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Department of Health:
<http://www.oneislandhealthsystem.ca/waittimes>

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Health and Community Services:
<http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2010/health/0408n03.htm>

Appendix B: Psychiatry waiting list survey, 2010 report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 11 and May 7, 2010. Surveys were sent out to all of the specialists in the psychiatry category of the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls who have allowed their names to be provided by Cornerstone List Fulfillment. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 8 percent (see table B1).

The treatments identified in the following tables represent a cross-section of common treatments carried out by psychiatrists. The list of treatments was developed in consultation with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, who also assisted in making adjustments to the standard survey form to reflect differences between psychiatric practices and practices in the other specialties presented in this document.

Unlike other specialties in *Waiting Your Turn* in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section on *Methodology* in the main document text for a clear description of the Fraser Institute's weighting procedures). All of the median measures that make up the final specialty median are given equal weight. This alteration to the standard methodology results from a lack of data counting the number of patients treated by psychiatrists, separated by treatment. We hope, in the coming years, to develop a weighting system for psychiatric treatments to allow a weighted average for this specialty to be calculated. In the current estimates, national medians are developed through a weighting system that bases the weight of each provincial median on the number of specialists contacted in that province.

Table B1: Summary of Responses

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	556	310	56	141	1788	969	43	121	10	45	4,039
Number of Responses	47	36	5	11	158	57	8	15	0	5	342
Response Rates	8%	12%	9%	8%	9%	6%	19%	12%	0%	11%	8%

Findings

Total wait times

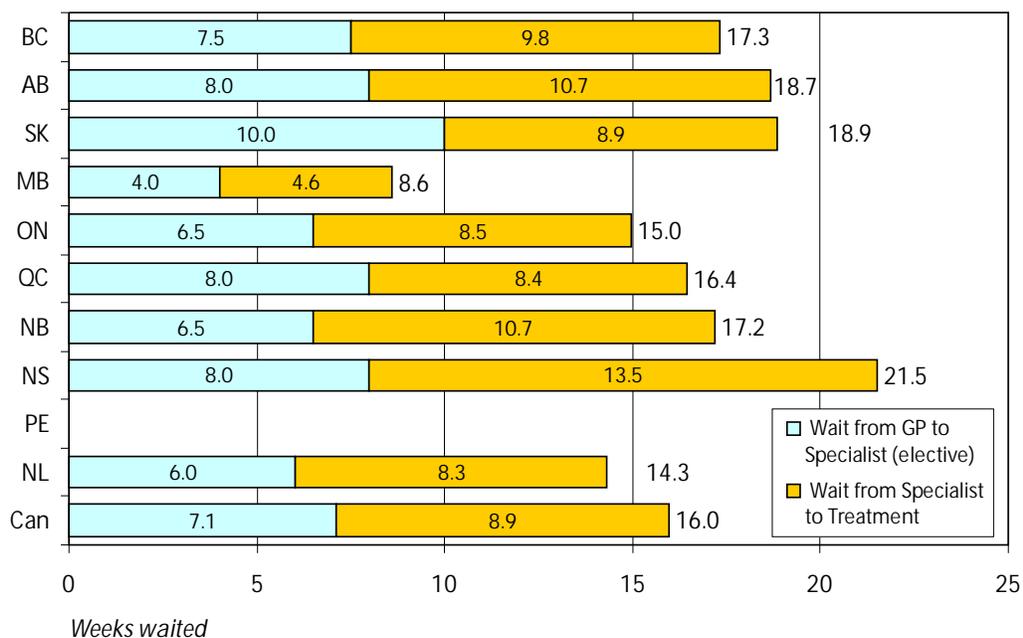
Across the provinces, the total wait time (between the referral by a general practitioner and the time that the required elective treatment begins) for psychiatry has fallen from 16.8 weeks in 2009 to 16.0 weeks in 2010 (see graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Manitoba (8.6 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (14.3 weeks), and Ontario (15.0 weeks). The longest total waits are in Nova Scotia (21.9 weeks), Saskatchewan (18.9 weeks), and Alberta (18.7 weeks).

Wait time by segment and specialty

The total wait time for psychiatric treatment can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

Graph B1: Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Province, 2010



Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Table B2: Psychiatry, 2010
Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP

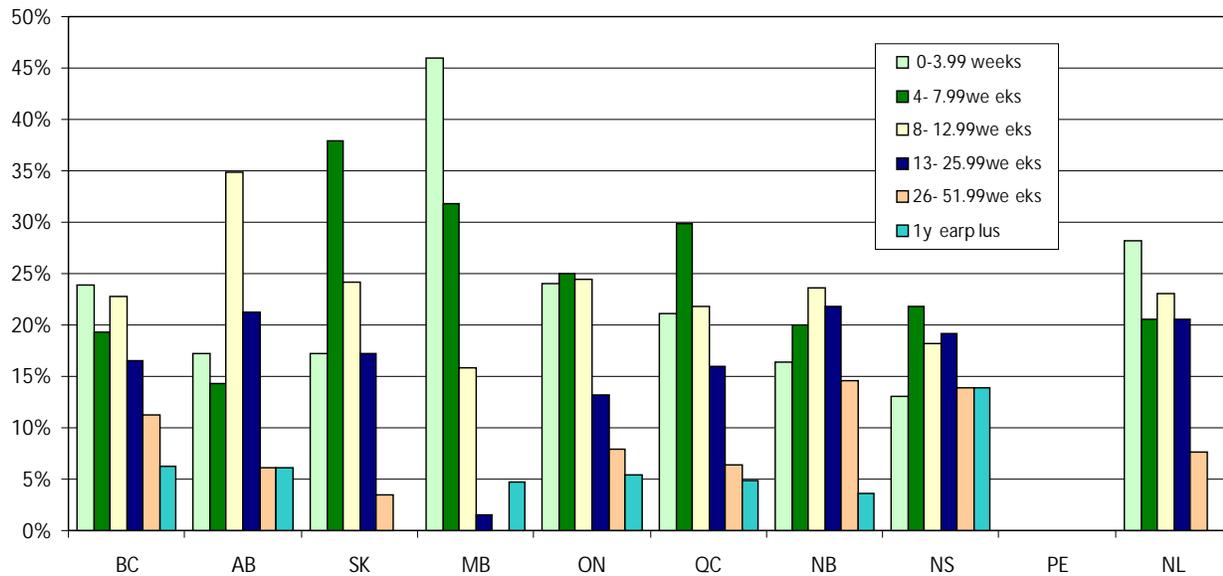
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	2.0	2.0	3.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	—	1.0	1.9
Elective	7.5	8.0	10.0	4.0	6.5	8.0	6.5	8.0	—	6.0	7.1

Table B2 indicates the number of weeks that patients wait for initial appointments with psychiatrists after referral from their general practitioners or from other specialists. The waiting time to see a psychiatrist on an urgent basis across the provinces is 1.9 weeks, ranging from 1.0 week in Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador, to 3.0 weeks in Saskatchewan. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 7.1 weeks. Saskatchewan is the province with the longest waiting time for elective referrals (10.0 weeks), followed by Alberta, Quebec, and Nova Scotia (8.0 weeks), and British Columbia (7.5 weeks). Manitoba is the province with the shortest wait for an elective referral (4.0 weeks), followed

Table B3: Psychiatry, 2010
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	6.0	8.0	9.0	2.5	6.5	4.3	10.5	12.0	—	4.0	6.1
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	9.0	12.0	12.0	2.5	12.0	12.0	16.0	14.0	—	13.0	11.4
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	3.8	4.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	—	2.1	4.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	8.0	8.0	5.0	2.5	8.0	5.0	9.0	8.0	—	8.0	7.1
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	8.0	9.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	11.5	8.0	—	16.0	8.3
Access a day program	8.0	8.5	4.8	4.0	4.0	4.8	7.0	18.0	—	8.0	5.6
Access an eating disorders program	12.0	12.0	4.8	6.0	11.5	4.8	11.0	12.0	—	4.0	9.6
Access a housing program	27.0	14.0	9.0	3.3	18.0	9.0	14.0	26.0	—	2.5	16.2
Access an evening program	8.0	12.0	5.5	4.0	7.0	5.5	5.5	4.0	—	4.0	6.9
Access a sleep disorders program	14.0	20.0	28.5	12.0	6.0	28.5	14.0	35.5	—	24.0	15.3
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	4.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	13.0	5.0	—	6.0	7.0
Unweighted Median	9.8	10.7	8.9	4.6	8.5	8.4	10.7	13.5	—	8.3	8.9

Graph B2: Frequency Distribution of Survey Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2010



by Newfoundland & Labrador (6.0 weeks), and Ontario and New Brunswick (6.5 weeks).

Table B3 summarizes the waiting time for certain elective psychiatric treatments after an appointment with a specialist. The longest waiting times for this second segment of the total waiting time are in Nova Scotia (13.5 weeks), Alberta, and New Brunswick (10.7 weeks), and British Columbia (9.8 weeks); while the shortest waits are in Manitoba (4.6 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (8.3 weeks), and Quebec (8.4 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest to enter a housing program (16.2 weeks) or a sleep disorders program (15.3 weeks), while the wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.0 weeks), and admission to a day program (5.6 weeks).

Graph B2 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province and by region. In all provinces, the wait for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks. Manitoba performs the highest proportion of treatments within 13 weeks (93.7 percent) and within 8 weeks (77.8%). Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Saskatchewan (3.4%) and Manitoba (4.8%), and most frequent in Nova Scotia (27.8%).

Table B4 compares the 2009 and 2010 waiting times for treatment. This year's study indicates an overall decrease in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in 8 provinces, with only British Columbia experiencing an increase (29%).

Table B4: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Psychiatric Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 2010 and 2009

Province	2010	2009	% chg
British Columbia	9.8	7.6	29%
Alberta	10.7	13.2	-19%
Saskatchewan	8.9	10.2	-13%
Manitoba	4.6	11.8	-61%
Ontario	8.5	8.9	-5%
Quebec	8.4	9.5	-11%
New Brunswick	10.7	20.0	-47%
Nova Scotia	13.5	15.4	-12%
Prince Edward Island	—	6.0	—
Newfoundland	8.3	21.5	-61%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Comparison between clinically reasonable and actual wait times

Physicians responding to the survey are also asked to provide a clinically reasonable waiting time for the various treatments. Specialists generally indicate a period of time substantially shorter than the median number of weeks patients actually wait for treatment (see tables B5 and B6). Table B5 summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. Table B6 summarizes the differences between the median reasonable and actual waiting times across the provinces for treatment after an appointment with a specialist, and shows that in 86 percent of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (in table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (in table B5). Manitoba and Newfoundland & Labrador come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable,” in that the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits only exceed the corresponding “reasonable” values by 13 and 73 percent respectively, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 5.2 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they have requested a delay or postponement of their treatment. Conversely, the proportion of patients who would have begun their

Table B5: *Psychiatry, 2010*
 Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	—	4.0	4.0
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	8.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.0	4.5	10.0	—	5.5	6.1
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	—	3.0	2.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	4.0	4.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	4.0	4.1
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	6.5	4.0
Access a day program	4.0	4.0	2.3	4.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	6.5	—	8.0	3.4
Access an eating disorders program	3.5	4.0	2.8	4.0	3.5	3.0	5.0	4.0	—	4.0	3.5
Access a housing program	4.0	4.0	2.8	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	9.5	—	4.0	4.1
Access an evening program	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.5	6.0	—	4.0	4.0
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	12.0	—	8.0	4.4
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	4.0	2.0	1.0	3.3	3.0	2.5	4.5	4.0	—	2.0	3.0
Unweighted Median	4.1	3.8	3.4	4.1	3.8	3.6	4.0	6.5	—	4.8	3.9

treatment within the week,¹¹ if it were available, is 73.1 percent (*Waiting Your Turn 2010*).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Table B7 displays the median number of weeks patients must wait for access to a computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, or an electroencephalogram (EEG). Compared to 2009, the national waiting time for MRI scans has fallen in 2010, while the waiting times for CT scans and EEGs have increased. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 5.0 weeks, ranging from a high of 7.0 weeks (Quebec), to a low of 2.5 weeks (Saskatchewan and Newfoundland & Labrador). The median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 9.7 weeks. Patients in Newfoundland & Labrador wait the longest (16.0 weeks), while patients in Manitoba wait the least amount of time (6.0 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an EEG across the provinces is 4.1 weeks. Residents of Newfoundland & Labrador face the shortest waits for

11 The survey asks psychiatrists what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that a lot of psychiatrists answer the question as if it were “a few days.”

*Table B6: Psychiatry, 2010
Difference Between Actual and Reasonable Patient Waits for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist*

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	50%	129%	125%	-38%	63%	6%	163%	140%	—	0%	52%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	13%	100%	100%	-58%	100%	140%	256%	40%	—	136%	85%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	100%	88%	78%	0%	100%	100%	200%	100%	—	-32%	94%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	100%	100%	67%	-58%	100%	25%	125%	14%	—	100%	70%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	100%	125%	125%	0%	100%	125%	188%	100%	—	146%	107%
Access a day program	100%	113%	111%	0%	33%	58%	75%	177%	—	0%	64%
Access an eating disorders program	243%	200%	73%	50%	229%	58%	120%	200%	—	0%	178%
Access a housing program	575%	250%	227%	30%	350%	125%	250%	174%	—	-38%	294%
Access an evening program	100%	200%	83%	23%	75%	38%	57%	-33%	—	0%	72%
Access a sleep disorders program	250%	400%	375%	100%	50%	613%	211%	196%	—	200%	248%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	0%	400%	500%	146%	167%	140%	189%	25%	—	200%	138%
Weighted Median	137%	183%	164%	13%	124%	135%	167%	109%	—	73%	128%

Table B7: Waiting for Technology: Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2010, 2009, and 2008

Province	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008	2010	2009	2008
British Columbia	6.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	3.8	3.0
Alberta	5.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Saskatchewan	2.5	8.0	4.5	13.0	18.0	8.5	6.0	8.5	3.0
Manitoba	3.0	4.5	4.5	6.0	5.0	7.0	6.0	2.8	4.5
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	3.5
Quebec	7.0	4.0	8.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
New Brunswick	5.5	4.5	4.0	11.5	8.0	7.0	3.0	6.5	4.0
Nova Scotia	5.0	2.3	4.0	10.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.5
P.E.I.	—	7.5	4.0	—	14.5	12.0	—	3.0	4.0
Newfoundland	2.5	6.0	5.3	16.0	46.0	52.0	1.0	4.5	3.5
Canada	5.0	4.1	5.0	9.7	10.5	10.9	4.1	4.0	3.7

an EEG (1.0 week), while residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba wait longest (6.0 weeks).¹²

Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 16.0 weeks from a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from a meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are nearly 130 percent longer than specialists feel is appropriate, it is clear that many patients in need of psychiatric attention are facing the effects of rationing in our health care system.

12 For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 4.2 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 5.0 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 1.6 weeks for 9 provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs in the psychiatry survey was 9.7 weeks, compared to 9.8 weeks for the other 12 specialties. The mean absolute difference in this case, again for 9 provinces, was 2.4 weeks.

Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire

General Surgery

Please circle the province in which your office is located:

AB BC MB NB NL NS NT NU ON PE QC SK YT

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. Do you restrict the number of patients waiting to see you in any manner? (i.e. Do you accept referrals only at certain times of the year?)

Yes No

3. Over the past 12 months, what percentage of the surgical procedures you performed were done on a day surgery basis? _____ %

4. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or Procedure	Number of Weeks to Wait	Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait
Hernia repair (all types)/hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnostic)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy/other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy/segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

5. Has the length of your waiting lists changed since last year at this time?

- Increased Decreased Remained the Same

6. If the length of your waiting lists has changed, what are the major reasons for the change? (Check all which may be applicable.)

- _____ Availability of O/R nurses
 _____ Availability of other technical staff
 _____ Availability of beds
 _____ Availability of O/R time
 _____ Change in patient load
 _____ Availability of ancillary investigations or consultations (i.e. MRI, CT scans)
 _____ Other

7. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because they requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

8. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose?
 _____ %

9. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your patients that are listed on hospital waiting lists might also be listed by other physicians for the same procedure? _____ %

10. Do you use the following types of diagnostic tests? If so, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?

Do you use this diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait
CT Scan				
MRI				
Ultrasound				

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients inquired in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

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